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Suggestions about altering German status quo get muted response

In his Brandenburg Gate speech in Berlin a year ago, President Reagan called upon Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov to tear down the Berlin Wall and allow the city to become an international conference centre and an international aviation junction.

The Wall suggestion was all but ignored by politicians and journalists. They were more interested in the aviation proposal (civil aviation as it affects Berlin is a heavily regulated field).

When the US ambassador in Bonn, Richard Burt, earlier this year called on the West to develop a joint strategy to overcome the political division of Germany, neither the Bonn government nor the Opposition jumped in to back him.

Then last month, Professor Dachichev, the head of the foreign policy division of the Soviet Academy of Sciences ~~and an authority~~ on Germany, announced from the Soviet embassy in Bonn that the Wall and the barbed wire were terrible relics of the Cold War. Dachichev is one of Mr Gorbachov's advisers.

He said the Wall and the wire were psychological as well as physical burdens which had to be gradually eliminated.

But once again, there was muted reaction in Bonn. The official Bonn — the government and the political parties — simply took no notice.

All of this must be considered when trying to interpret recent remarks by West German politicians on the German Question.

These remarks are characterised by a striking degree of agreement, not always

Frankfurter Allgemeine

in the way they are are formulated but in their content.

In a visit to Erfurt after Dachichev had said that the Wall and the barbed wire were obsolete, Social Democrat security expert Egon Bahr not only emphasised the joint responsibility of both German states for peace, but assured his audience that the occasional discussions in the Federal Republic on reunification were "nonsense".

In the foreseeable future reunification could not be a practical political objective, he said.

In Rostock one week later former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt (SPD) said that the Germans needn't abandon their hopes for a common roof, this generation, however, must learn to live with a divided Germany.

Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (FDP) and his party colleague Uwe Ronneburger took the opportunity during their visits to Potsdam and East Berlin to make it clear how they view the German situation.

Both politicians referred to the Letter on German Unity, the declaration which states that the Federal Republic of Germany works towards a situation in which the German people can exercise its right to self-determination.

They relativised this declaration, however, by adding that this applies whichever way the future of the Germans may develop. This was not an expression of a single-minded will for unity. What about the CDU? According to its own statements its position is completely different to the stance taken by SPD and FDP politicians. During the CDU party congress in Wiesbaden it worded its Deutschlandpolitik resolution in such a way that the controversy over the party line on this policy before the congress soon came to an end. Reunification in freedom, the party resolution runs, is the party's "most urgent objective". The sentence contained in the original wording of the resolution that reunification cannot be achieved in the foreseeable future was dropped. However, the CDU stuck to its announcement that it would, if need be, tread new paths to achieve unity. This was a minority recommendation.

For a better understanding of the significance of the announcements in the field of Deutschlandpolitik it must also be taken into account that the party did not more than state its intentions.

It refrained from developing concrete ideas on how the current state of division could be changed.

It was more specific regarding party policy on Europe. It deserves credit for coming up with a number of new proposals on how to move closer to the desired goal of creating the United States of Europe.

This was described as "the" decisive objective for the future, a pledge which gives the CDU greater credibility.

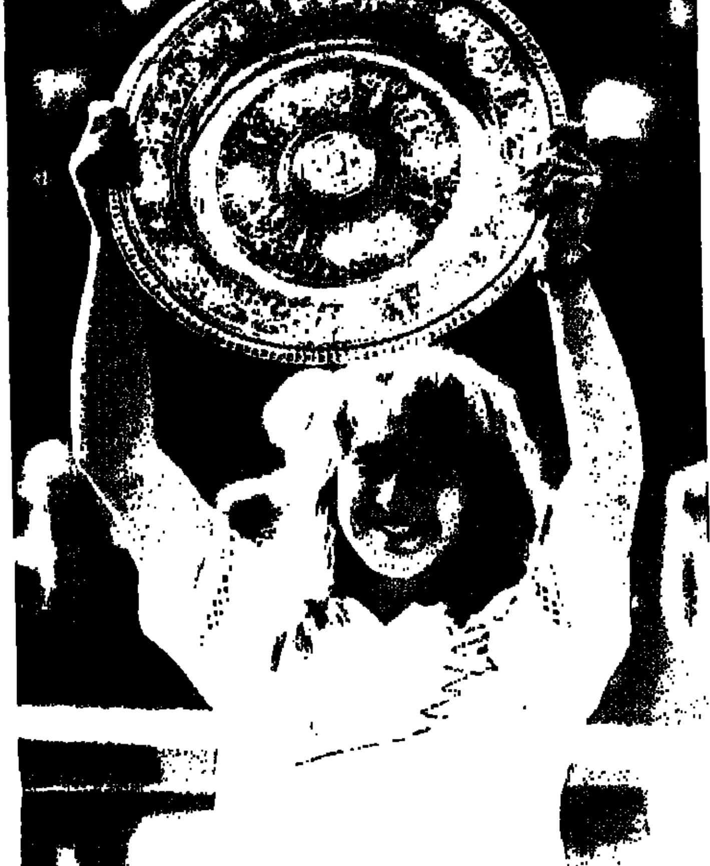
The claim that reunification is the "the most urgent objective", on the other hand, looks like a plaster stuck on an open sore. The aim of treatment would seem to be to kill and ease the pain, not to heal the wound.

If this impression is correct it is understandable why both the Bonn government and the opposition in Bonn show little interest in both American and Soviet suggestions aimed at changing the status quo in Germany.

Words with such an intention only seem to irritate political groups in Bonn.

Karl Feldmeyer
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 29 June 1988)

IN THIS ISSUE



Steffi's game, set and match

Steffi Graf, 19, won her third major tennis title this year when she beat Martina Navratilova in the Wimbledon final 5-7, 6-2, 6-1. She had already won the Australian and French titles and needs only the US open to take the Grand Slam. (Photo: dpa)



New man at Nato

Former Bonn Defence Minister Manfred Wörner answers questions at a Press conference to mark his inauguration as Secretary General of Nato in place of Lord Carrington. (Photo: dpa)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Romania and Hungary start punching

Romania and Hungary are at each other throats. The issue is a long-standing one: the treatment of the Hungarian minority in Transylvania, which is part of Romania. The eruption now, which has resulted in the closure of Hungary's consulate in Transylvania in return for anti-Romanian demonstrations in the streets of Budapest, is a decision to raze about 8,000 villages occupied by Transylvanian Hungarians to the ground and resettle the occupants in "agro-industrial complexes." The Romanians say this is all in the interests of more efficient farming. The Hungarians say that the aim to disperse the population. Olaf Ihlau reports for the Munich daily, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*.

Hungary's new party leader and head of government, Karoly Grosz, had intended paying his first official visit to his country's socialist neighbour, Romania.

Politicians backing the reform policy course in Hungary made it clear that talks during the visit would have centred on Romania's controversial nationalities policy.

The policy virtually amounts to a forcible assimilation of the roughly two million Hungarians and the remaining 230,000 or so ethnic Germans living in Romania.

After Romania's leader Nicolae Ceaucescu indicated that Grosz would not be welcome with this kind of luggage the visit was called off. It is unlikely to materialise in the near future.

Relations between the two brother nations have now reached the stage of open hostility.

The cause and development of the conflict are unparalleled in the history of the Warsaw Pact alliance.

What Grosz was not allowed to address in Bucharest catapulted, as it were, onto the streets of the Hungarian capital.

A mass demonstration by hundreds of thousands of Hungarians in Budapest on 27 June drew international attention to the fact that human rights and the rights of minorities are being trampled on in Rumania and that this Balkan state is the darkest cellar in today's common European house.

The demonstrators' banners accused the Romanian *conducator* (leader) of genocide, calling him "Adolf Ceausescu".

This is not the way socialist friends usually deal with one another.

The "Titan among Titans", as Ceausescu, who fosters a Byzantine personality cult, likes to be called by his fawning courtiers, replied like an offended emperor: he described the demonstrations as "chauvinistic and anti-socialist", ordered the closure of the Hungarian consulate in Cluj within 48 hours, and threatened to pull his diplomats out of Budapest.

The Hungarian party leadership probably expected this response when it decided to switch from its previous course of quiet and unsuccessful negotiating to one of public denunciation of the Romanian policy.

After all, the biggest mass gathering Budapest had seen since the 1956 uprising could hardly have taken place without the tacit connivance of the authorities.

There were already indications that Hungary would try to internationalise this problem during recent sessions of the Vienna CSCE follow-on conference.

One ulterior motive may have been that declared reformers in the socialist camp should do all they can to eliminate Stalinist fossils.

What is more, the dispute with its neighbour distracts some of the attention from Hungary's own economic problems.

However, the decisive reason for the Hungarian attack was probably the growing stream of refugees from Romania as a result of the hopeless position of the Magyars (and Germans) there.

Their fate as an ethnic group would be sealed once and for all if the grotesque plans of the red monarch "to level out the difference between urban and rural regions" are carried out.

According to these plans, 8,000 villages are to be cleared away by the year 2000 and replaced by agro-industrial complexes.

This means literally bulldozing communities with an independent culture which has evolved over centuries and turning their homes into camps.

Conducator Ceausescu, however, wants his rule over Romania to go down in history as the "golden epoch", even though he has brought the country to the brink of ruin.

Karoly Kiraly, a former Communist Party official and a member of the Hungarian minority, claims that the last loaf of bread is being taken from the mouths of the people and exported.

Kiraly, who also met Mikhail Gorbachov for talks, was too prominent to worry about the whip of the despot.

Other less prominent members of the political opposition in Romania notice Ceaucescu's displeasure much more drastically: via the intimidation of the brutal *Securitate*, the loss of their jobs, arrests or forced labour in salt mines.

It looks as if the Romanian leader has drifted too deep into his socialist dreamworld to be open to advice, requests or reason.

The Americans, who occasionally backed Ceausescu's independent foreign policy line, turned their back on him in disappointment at his stubbornness over human rights.

Although he received the highest decorations from Moscow and East Berlin on his 70th birthday the declared opponent of Gorbachov's reform ideas is being put under growing pressure in his own camp.

In addition, Moscow is irritated at Bucharest's intransigence at the Vienna CSCE conference, which could fail because of Romania's refusal to adopt a final declaration.

Romania's relationship to Bonn is a special case.

Up to now, Bonn has showed restraint in its criticism to avoid any adverse effects on the chances for Romanian Germans to leave the country.

Apparently, there are currently negotiations with Bucharest over an horrendous increase in the "head money" required to get large groups of Transylvanian Saxons and Banat Swabians out of Romania as fast as possible.

This expensive manoeuvre has the character of finality.

It may prove more expedient to cooperate with the Hungarians and to count on the fact that the biological clock of the cancer-stricken Nicolae Ceaucescu cannot go on ticking for ever.

Olaf Ihlau

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich, 30 June 1988)

Fresh from Hanover, Kohl's thoughts turn to Moscow

Bonn Chancellor Helmut Kohl was able to bask in the glare of the European Community Summit in Hanover.

The event itself and the praise for Bonn's achievements during its six months as Community chairman were welcome compensation for the heavy criticism Kohl is coming in for over domestic policies.

At the moment it looks as if he is held in higher esteem by statesmen in other western countries than by politicians at home.

The development of Franco-German relations and the bonhomie of the relationship between the conservative Kohl and the socialist Mitterrand are indications of this.

The harmony of the Hanover meeting, and of the Toronto Economic Summit which preceded it, is even more significant for the Chancellor.

He has a vital interest in sustaining his foreign policy standing in preparation for his four-day visit to the Soviet Union in October.

Moscow keeps a wary eye on the discussion of domestic policy issues in Germany so as to assess Kohl's political strength. So far, it has detected no sign of any wind of change.

The CDU party congress in Wiesbaden did not produce anything which need worry Moscow.

In fact the Soviets are still full of praise for Kohl's resolute support for the double zero solution for medium-range missiles.

Wherever doubts crop up in the wake of the occasional crises by the CDU and CSU or by the coalition Moscow turns

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

to Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. And he will be accompanying Kohl during his visit to Moscow.

Friendly words are already being exchanged to make it easier to open the new chapter in relations between the two countries envisaged by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachov.

Yet Kohl's visit to Moscow may turn out to be one of the most difficult of his entire chancellorship.

Strategic and tactical questions have already been raised long before the visit actually takes place.

Should the complete spectrum of the German-Soviet relationship be dealt with right from the outset? This would include fundamental questions such as human rights and religious freedom.

Should Kohl follow President Reagan's example and try to organise a meeting with dissidents?

Should he make a decisive call for an improvement in the status of the German minority in the Soviet Union in the face of the growing difficulties confronting Gorbachov over the nationalities question?

Careful preparations for the visit are essential. When in Moscow, however, Kohl may have to show greater empathy, tactfulness and improvisation talents than initially expected.

A turn for the better by October could, of course, enable Kohl to drop some of the planned restraint. On the other hand, the unpredictability of current developments in the Soviet Union may necessitate even more restraint than planned. The special Communist Party conference which began in Moscow on 28 June may strengthen Gorbachov's position and consolidate the success of his liberalisation policies at home and in the foreign policy field.

The Bonn government knows that Gorbachov wants the first intensive top-level German-Soviet meeting for years to be a success. Hardly anyone recalls the 1983 meeting between Chancellor Kohl and Yuri Andropov.

If Gorbachov's vision of a common European house is meant seriously he cannot overlook the role of its German tenant.

The successful restructuring of the Soviet Union into an efficient state requires economic cooperation with the West, especially with Bonn as a traditionally significant partner.

Such cooperation, however, presupposes that Moscow's "Deutschlandpolitik" discards the stick-and-carrot method; it cannot simply lapse back into a policy of threatening gestures after encouraging statements of goodwill.

Although there are justified western, and in particular German needs in this context Chancellor Kohl should show a greater interest in trying to discover how the Soviet Union intends reducing its conventional military superiority.

The public discussion in the Soviet Union now realises that the threatening policy of armament triggered the reaction of the West in the first place.

One need only recall the twin-track Nato decision initiated (not by chance) by former Bonn Chancellor Helmut Schmidt.

Fortunately, Kohl's visit to Moscow will not be overloaded with too many expectations, since agreement has already been reached on a return visit to Bonn by Gorbachov during the first six months of 1989.

It may prove both clever and meaningful to initiate projects in Moscow which are then ceremonially concluded in Bonn. The impact of such negotiating successes might then even last until well into the general election year 1990.

The conclusion of two agreements previously impeded by disagreement over the Berlin clause could be a sign of a really new start, a breakthrough in relations between the two countries.

In view of the prospects for the future of Europe Moscow's restrictive stance on West Berlin is gradually looking increasingly anachronistic anyway.

If talk of a new chapter is to make any sense at all Berlin must assume a key role.

Hans Schmitz

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 27 June 1988)

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Then and now. Berlin schoolchildren wave to a candy bomber in 1948; 40th anniversary ceremony in Berlin before a C 47 (military version of the DC3).
(Photo: Archives, dpa)

■ FLASHBACK

40 years since Capt. Jack Bennett took off to begin the Berlin airlift

In the late afternoon of 23 June, 1948, the phone rang in the Frankfurt office of US captain Jack O. Bennett.

"Captain," the caller asked, "have you got a DC4 to fly coal to Berlin this evening?" The DC4 is a passenger aircraft.

This conversation was the start of the spectacular Berlin airlift, which supplied food for over two million people in the city for almost a year.

Captain Bennett flew to Berlin that night — with a planeload of potatoes.

Next day, the Soviet Union imposed a blockade on West Berlin. It obstructed all overland and waterway access routes to the city and cut off the electricity supply to the western part of Berlin, blaming the whole operation on "technical disruptions".

East Berlin's ADN news agency reported that "it is currently difficult to forecast when passenger and goods traffic will be re-established."

The alleged reason for the Soviet move was the announcement by the British and Americans to introduce the new Deutsche Mark (DM) in their sectors of Berlin.

The Soviet Union viewed this as a violation of the principle of joint administration in Berlin.

Long before 24 June, 1948, there were already signs that a conflict was only a matter of time.

The interest of the victorious powers had drifted further and further apart since the end of the war, especially in Berlin.

The Soviet Union already began its gradual blockade in Berlin at the beginning of 1948 by systematically restricting the free movement of persons and goods via harassment, spot-checks and turning people back at the border.

The American military governor in Berlin at the time made provisions for a possible culmination of the conflict by stockpiling food reserves intended to last for thirty days.

The legendary mayor of Berlin, Ernst Reuter, summed up the crux of the problem in a nutshell: "Whoever has the currency has the power."

Hardly anybody in the West seriously believed that the Soviet Union would resort to the same methods used by the Germans to starve out Leningrad between September 1941 and January 1943.

And hardly anybody in Moscow believed that West Berlin could survive such a siege for long.

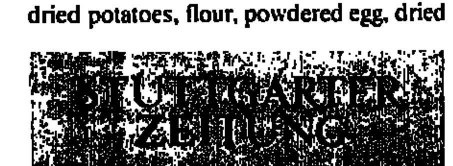
Even Reuter was initially convinced that Berlin would only be able to hold out for a few weeks.

As a quadripartite agreement on the use of overland routes and waterways had not yet been drawn up the West had no option but to send in supplies to West Berlin by air, a feat many people felt would prove impossible.

Four days after the imposition of the Soviet blockade the American military governor in Germany, General Lucius D. Clay, set about making the impossible possible.

At the outset only 25 supply planes were available for the airlift. A further 350 aircraft had to be flown in to Germany from air bases throughout the world.

Spare pieces of equipment, partitions and wash-stands were converted so that dried potatoes, flour, powdered egg, dried



vegetables and dried milk could be stuffed into the hollow spaces. Everything had to be dried to make it less heavy.

Later on, brown coal was also flown in to Berlin.

The airlift teams, including many military pilots, were in operation for up to 20 hours a day.

Planes landed at the Berlin-Tempelhof airport in intervals of just a few minutes. Any pilot who "messed up" his approach had to immediately fly on to Hanover so as to prevent any hold-up.

The Soviets tried to jam radiotelephone links and radar or blind the pilots with searchlights. 78 people died during the Berlin airlift.

Within just three months 20,000 West Berliners built an additional airport in Tegel. The Ernst Reuter power plant was also constructed during the airlift.

By autum 1948 the operation was so well-organised that at least a minimum supply of food to the city was guaranteed, even though many people were to die of starvation or freeze to death during the winter of 1948/49.

Only 12.5 kilograms of coal were available per person during the entire winter and the deforestation in the woods could not help that much. Many people only managed to survive by digging out the roots of the trees.

Factories and offices were unheated and electricity and gas were only supplied for a few hours a day.

Some Berliners could count themselves lucky if they go the chance to warm themselves up a bit in the reading rooms of the Allies.

Public transport only ran until 6 p.m. Some people didn't even have shoes with wooden soles to see them through the winter.

However, things did not work the way the Soviets planned. Despite their dire need the West Berliners did not allow themselves to be set against the western occupied powers.

The suffering of the airlift years produced a special we-feeling which is still characteristic of the older people in West Berlin today. The younger generation finds this difficult to understand.

For the first time since the war the attention of an international public was focussed with growing respect from one month to the next on the will to survive of the population of a city which only a few years previously had been the target of international contempt as the capital of fascism.

In the end Stalin gave way. The ineffective blockade was lifted on 12 May, 1949.

In 277,728 flights the pilots of the DC3 and DC4 Dakota aircraft transported 2,326,205 tonnes of goods to Berlin, including an entire power plant which had been dismantled into individual parts and — as Berlin's busiest airlift pilot, Jack O. Bennett, recalls — a crate of wine for the French garrison in the north of Berlin.

The US flight crew, however, decided to throw the crate over board and justified their action as follows:

"That's not as important as milk for starving children. Why should the French get wine when the Americans haven't even got Coca Cola?"

Otto Jörg Weis

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 24 June 1988)

A city's test

The city of Berlin is the test of the Soviet policy of glasnost, the American ambassador to Bonn, Richard Burt, said during a ceremony in the city to mark the 40th anniversary of the start of the airlift.

Mr Burt told the guests that air transport to and from Berlin should be extended to maintain links with the western world.

He told the gathering, at the Tempelhof airport: "The Berlin airlift changed this city and the whole world."

The courage and determination of the western allies and the people of Berlin to break the Soviet blockade had shown the Soviet Union that Berlin was not the weakest but the strongest link in the chain of western solidarity.

Burt praised the thousands of people who joined forces to save West Berlin and paid special tribute to the 78 who died in the operation.

He emphasised that new developments in East-West relations also open up new possibilities for Berlin.

He referred to the remarks made by President Reagan during his meeting with Mikhail Gorbachov in Moscow that only decisive changes in the way East Bloc countries dealt with their people would lead to lasting improvements in the relationship between East and West.

He said: "This is a message with special significance for Berlin. Berlin is the test for Gorbachov's commitment on glasnost. Berlin is the laboratory for New Thinking, the touchstone for Soviet openness."

Burt called upon the Soviet Union to work together with the western allies to demonstrate the seriousness of their good intentions.

The French ambassador, Serge Boidevaix, pointed out the connection between the currency reform and the blockade.

The creation of the D-Mark was the pretext employed by the Soviet Union for its blockade of the overland access routes to Berlin.

Over the years the D-Mark has enabled economic- and monetary-policy unity between West Berlin and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The British ambassador, Sir Christopher Mallaby, claimed that "in the hearts and minds of Berliners the western allies had changed from occupying powers into protector powers."

Berlin's Senator for Justice and Federal Affairs, Ludwig A. Rehlinger, stressed that the Berlin airlift had "forged a bond of friendship between Germans and the western powers."

Earlier on that day Rehlinger had officially opened an exhibition dealing with the Berlin airlift in the Berlin diplomatic mission in Bonn.

(Die Welt, Bonn, 24 June 1988)

PEOPLE IN POLITICS

Hopes that new State chief will end SPD feuding

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Hamburg's Social Democrats are optimistic that their days of factionalism and infighting are past. Henning Voscherau, the man who succeeded the retired Klaus von Dohnanyi as mayor, has ordered the party to close ranks.

It seems that his appeal has been heard. Traute Müller is the new leader of the Hamburg SPD. She was elected by a surprisingly large majority.

She is pushing the new unity line as if she had always advocated it, saying: "The wings must cooperate. And that includes the left wing, of which I am a member."



Views hard to pigeonhole... Traute Müller. (Photo: dpa)

A number of right-wingers do feel that Frau Müller, a 38-year-old education graduate, has changed her tune.

At first glance this would seem to have the ring of truth. She joined the SPD as a member of the *Stamokap* tendency, seen by most Social Democrats in Hamburg and elsewhere as a Marxist deviation.

The *Stamokap* (short for State Monopoly Capitalism) group a lot of problems in Hamburg, where a number of its supporters were expelled from the party.

In the late 1970s, a period when the SPD's youth wing was on the decline, Frau Müller was elected deputy leader of the Young Socialists in Bonn.

Yet anyone who had forecast at the time that she might one day be elected leader of the Hamburg SPD would have been the butt of ridicule.

As it was, no-one forecast anything of the kind. But Traute Müller's political views have for some time been difficult to pigeonhole.

She was elected SPD leader in the Hamburg borough of Eimsbüttel, by no means a cakewalk. It includes the university campus, and Eimsbüttel SPD has long been left-wing in tendency.

Despite this left-wing majority Frau Müller is reputed to have carried out a policy of integration that very much bore her handwriting.

This tour de force will have been a main reason why leading Social Democrats who can hardly be accused of sharing her political views supported her as party leader.

SPD right-wingers were not entirely selfless in their support. The Hamburg SPD is not happy with the SPD-FDP coalition and is keen to regain its absolute majority in the next state assembly elections.

If it is to do so it will need to come by extra votes, possibly from the ranks of today's Greens. The Greens in Hamburg used to be a force to be reckoned with, but they now seem to be on their last legs. Few go to their meetings any more.



Promises a new beginning... Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul. (Photo: Sven Simon)

When the next state assembly elections are held in three years, the Social Democrats may stand to benefit from former Greens.

Frau Müller was opposed to the SPD-FDP alliance and constantly advocated collaboration with the Greens, whose views she shared on many issues.

But she must first gain support for her approach in her own party. Right-wingers still hold the upper hand in the SPD's Hamburg executive committee.

"I have learnt how to handle different viewpoints," she says, outlining her own political development and taking a dig at the behaviour of her opponents in the executive committee.

"What we need, in my opinion, is an atmosphere in which different viewpoints can be accommodated. I am well aware that I stand to learn from such discussions and will have to support results different from the views I may previously have espoused," Frau Müller says.

Yet she still feels the economic and social system in the Federal Republic of Germany is in need of fundamental change.

This interplay of a fundamentally radical viewpoint and a practical readiness to compromise is, when all is said and done, nothing unusual in the history of Social Democracy.

Karsten Plog

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 28 June 1988)

Red Heidi wins debate — and some votes, too

Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul is known as Red Heidi. The tag dates from her days as chairman of the left-wing Jusos (young socialists, or youth wing of the Social Democrats) between 1974 and 1977.

It is a tag she can't get rid off. She knows this and so she now has turned it to her advantage. She explains that it isn't negative; she doesn't regard it as offensive in any way that thoughts of her conjure up ideas of "red" and "left".

She told a meeting of the south Hesse Social Democrats in Langen that red was, after all, the colour of the *SPD* and the SPD was a left-wing party of the people. She must have been convincing. Delegates elected her local branch chairman.

But the reality is that the name "*Red* Heidi" was never as bland as she *claims*. But the days when she was regarded with horror by the less extreme ranks of the party have long gone. That could be seen from the vote: 161 for her and only 128 for a former Hesse Social Affairs minister, Armin Clauss.

She is 45 and belongs to a younger generation of SPD politicians and not to Clauss' generation, which is associated with the loss of power to the CDU in Hesse last year.

At Langen, Frau Wieczorek-Zeul offered the idea of a "new beginning". It was a commitment both for the party and on a personal plane.

She promised that the branch would start to produce ideas. It should resume its former role as a think tank and elaborate a "progressive position" in politics at *Land* level. It should involve itself in issues such as peace and security.

She doesn't explain how this think-tank role should be put into action at the same time as the exhortation to "get closer to the Bürger" is followed.

Why the SPD in this particular part of Hesse has lost the trust of people is something that is a matter for wide conjecture.

While Clauss delivered long passages of campaign speechifying and lashed the Bonn government, Frau Wieczorek-Zeul, a former teacher, was more restrained, refined and self-critical. *She* was more successful and camouflaging any personal ambition and motivating the party for the future.

She had "no personal *ambitions in Land* politics" (whereas Clauss would like to be on the state executive and its top candidate for the next election); she wants to create for the party "profile and elan" for the next *Land* election, and talks about a "fresh wind".

You might have thought that here at last, the party's great hope had arrived. As deputy branch chairman, Frau Wieczorek-Zeul tried for a long time to achieve change, but often it was the SPD government in Wiesbaden itself which frustrated her.

She cannot be said to have been merely on the sidelines as the SPD Premier, Holger Börner, became more and more confused and, finally called an election.

Now, she is a little more relaxed and more moderate. And, last but not least, the time is now better for women to take higher office.

Bernd Erich Heptner

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 27 June 1988)

Feminist elected to head the young socialists

Susi Möbbeck is precisely the sort of person the Jusos (the SPD youth organisation) like: she is young and she is a woman.

The new national chairman, elected at the national congress last month, has has a meteoric career. The 23 year old was only 14 when she joined the Social Democrats; but she joined only with "great pain" because of the decision by the SPD-FDP coalition of the time to approve deployment of Nato nuclear missiles.

At the time, most of her contemporaries were more interested in the cinema and mopeds. But Frau Möbbeck, who comes from Bremen, was even then involved in school politics, working for educational change.

She became pupils' spokesman for the *Land* of Bremen; three years ago she was elected to the executive of the Bremen Jusos; and last year she became chairman.

The trainee teacher had barely been elected head of the national Jusos when she ran into a hail of criticism. The reforming wing opposed her because of what it regards as her dogmatism. She herself says she is both Marxist and feminist. She sees a growing proportion of women coming into the Jusos.

"What young socialists in the future do must be measured against how it affects women," she says.





Sticking to grass roots... Susi Möbbeck. (Photo: Sven Simon)

Women in politics stood for "drive for integration, for the destruction of old rituals and for new standards".

She has no fears about taking up the cudgels in the committee rooms of the Jusos and of the party proper: "They will have to take me seriously." Frau Möbbeck has the voice of the experienced speaker to match her background as party official.

At the SPD party conference in Münster she will represent the Jusos on economic issues and, by doing so move "into a field where women have until now not had anything to say." Only in this way can she, she says, get round being presented as an image.

In the coming years, she intends keeping activity at a grass-roots level. It might have been easy as chairman in Bremen, but with 180,000 young socialists throughout Germany, she is going to have to demonstrate her mettle in her new job.

But she doesn't intend to give up her studies. She is the youngest chairman in the history of the Jusos and the first women since Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul in 1974.

The Jusos are as divided as before, but in the future, the uniting elements will, she believes, once again count.

"Sophisticated and popular," are Susi Möbbeck's watchwords. She demands that people have the courage to experiment in politics, "The days of the 100-page long theories are, in any case, dead."

Petra Werner

(General-Anzeiger, Bonn, 22 June 1988)

GERMANY

'Permanent missions' on both sides to get new heads



Backing of Honecker... Horst Neubauer. (Photo: dpa)

Horst Neubauer has been appointed head of East Berlin's permanent mission in Bonn. He replaces Ewald Moldt, who returns to East Berlin.

Neubauer, born in 1936, is not one of the Communist pioneers who returned from emigration or imprisonment after the war to set up a Communist society, pioneers who still control East Germany today. Yet he owes his career to these old men and feels in their debt.

This distinguishes him from all those Communist party members who, because of their younger years and different experiences, are waiting for reforms à la Gorbachov. People like Neubauers often find themselves in two minds.

Without a social revolution the former salesman from Thuringia would never have achieved a successful career as a diplomat.

This kind of promotion makes people grateful, and the price for promotion is conformity. This does not exactly strengthen backbones. Yet the members of this group are too intelligent to be able to overlook the encrustations of the Communist system.

Neubauer typifies a large group in East German society. He is a product of the "Workers' and Peasants' Faculties" set up in all universities and a number of technical colleges in 1949. This institution tried to break the bourgeois educational privilege.

As the name suggests most of the students at these faculties were the children of workers and the peasantry.

They had finished elementary school and vocational training and were prepared for university studies at substitute grammar schools. As opposed to the other applicants they virtually had a free ticket to university education.

The qualification of the teachers and students at the individual faculties varied substantially. Everyone was obliged to stick rigidly to the party line.

Only two of these faculties still exist today. The others were closed down in 1963.

Right from the outset they were designed as a means of speeding up the training and qualification of the next generation of Communist Party members.

The East Berlin Communist Party (SED), however, realised at the end of the 50s that a profession of belief in the principles of Marxism and Leninism are not enough. Expertise and specialist know-how are essential for the running of organisations and an administrative apparatus. This insight had implications for training.

One result was the "Academy of Political Sciences and Jurisprudence", which set out to provide cadres, management staff for state institutions, the judiciary and the Foreign Service.

Horst Neubauer studied at the Academy and obtained the qualification of a *Diplom-Staatswissenschaftler* (corresponds to a degree in political sciences).

The Academy is directly linked with the East German Council of Ministers.

Neubauer passed through the individual stages, a must for anyone who hopes to move into a top position some day. He studied at the Academy and was then given a Foreign Office job.

Between 1966 and 1970 he was Second Secretary in the East Berlin embassy in Moscow, and between 1970 and 1980 a staff members and later sectoral head in the International Relations Division of the SED Central Committee.

Since 1966 this Division has been headed by the foreign policy expert in the SED leadership, Hermann Axen.

Neubauer, who has been East Berlin ambassador in Warsaw since 1980, is viewed as one of Axen's protégés.

His assignment to Poland at a time of serious crisis there underlines the trust placed in him by the SED Politburo.

Apart from the fact that relations between East Berlin and Warsaw have never been relaxed and any emissary in Warsaw also assumed the function of a listening post and mediator.

Neubauer is one of the leading cadres in the SED. His appointment in Bonn would not have been possible without the official approval of East Berlin leader Erich Honecker.

Honecker still holds the reins of power in the field of Deutschlandpolitik. This does not make the post of head of the permanent mission in Bonn any easier. Very often this institution is bypassed because Honecker settles matters more directly.

It is surprising that the SED has delegated a man with experience in the field of International Relations of the Central Committee to Bonn, a sector which ranked higher than the Foreign Ministry.

Neubauer has a stronger position in the party apparatus than Ewald Moldt, who was only in the Foreign Service.

With the backing of Hermann Axen and as long as the gerontocracy stays in power in East Berlin Neubauer will have also have a powerful position in the Bonn post.

Ewalt Moldt, who was assigned to Bonn in 1978, had to wait until 1986 before being appointed a full member of the SED Central Committee.

Neubauer already has this status (conferred in June this year) before going to Bonn.

This underlines that East Germany has not entrusted just any "Mr Average" with the task of safeguarding its interests in Bonn.

Jürgen Engert

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, Bonn, 1 July 1988)



Will need all his skills... Franz Bertele. (Photo: Bundesbildstelle)

Diplomat with a dislike of things fancy

Hans Otto Bräutigam moves to New York in the autumn to take over a United Nations post. He will be replaced as head of Bonn's permanent mission in East Berlin by Franz Bertele.

Bertele knows the East Berlin scene. He was deputy to Günter Gauss at the mission from 1977 to 1980.

The same men are still at the top of the SED. In terms of the power structure very little has changed in East Berlin — as opposed to the Soviet Union. So Bertele should find it easy to pick up where he left off in 1980.

The 57-year-old lawyer and professional diplomat is likely to need all his skills in the coming years - a lot of diplomatic sensitivity, negotiating skills and political steadfastness.

His colleagues in the Bonn Foreign Office regard him as a reserved but absolutely reliable man with profound knowledge and a sense of communication and motivation.

This is an astonishingly positive assessment for a man who has been head of the personnel policy department of the Central Division of the Bonn Foreign Office for the past two years.

His good reputation, even in the eyes of the staff council, results from Bertele's efforts to promote teamwork and transparency in the diplomatic service.

In the past younger diplomats in particular did not have exact information on where they would be posted.

Bertele has tried to make sure that the persons affected find out more about where the vacancies are and what prospects they have of getting the job.

In a memo he pointed out that "working together means showing consideration, sometimes putting aside one's own interests, and the realisation that the members of staff are not the only ones who need motivation — above all, the recognition and friendliness appropriate and natural in everyday dealings — but that superiors are also vulnerable and occasionally grateful for acknowledgement of their efforts."

This is not the way the heads of the personnel department usually word their memos.

They underline the personal sovereignty and composure of a man who attaches no importance to glamour or grand words. Fancy ideas are alien to his nature. These are good qualities for work in East Germany.

Bernt Conrad

(Die Welt, Bonn, 30 June 1988)

■ SUMMITS

Toronto: German statistics and food for thought for Punte del Este

The economic Summit in Toronto ended in harmony. The leaders of the top seven economic powers were determined not to let differences show. In this article for the weekly magazine, *Wirtschaftswoche*, Wilfried Herz looks at the main aspects of the meeting, in particular the performance of the Bonn Finance Minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg, and at some of the implications for the Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) round in Punte del Este, Uruguay.

Bonn's Finance Minister, Gerhard Stoltenberg, is plagued at home by tax worries and budget problems. But he is doing much better on the international stage. It was announced at the Toronto Summit that the record trade surplus is to be reduced.

The German surplus has for years been a source of anxiety for trading partners and a major theme at international conferences.

The two-and-a-half-day world trade conference of the seven most important western industrialised states took place in the windowless basement of the hermetically sealed Convention Center.

Stoltenberg presented detailed statistics about Germany's performance and intentions: the record surplus of DM25.4bn in the third quarter of 1986 has constantly declined and was only DM15.2bn in the first quarter of 1988.

Another series of figures were even more impressive. The external contribution to Germany's gross national product, 4.1 per cent in 1986, is to be halved to 2.2 per cent this year.

Because of fluctuating exchange rates, other countries with trade imbalances have also had success: Japan (surpluses) and the United States (deficits).

In real terms, US exports in the first four months this year increased by 25 per cent while imports rose only 4.5 per cent.

The decline of the negative external contribution amounted to almost a half of American economic growth since the beginning of this year.

But despite all these successes, those at the summit agreed that serious imbalances were still a risk factor and a possible danger to growth.

Stoltenberg said: "Everyone knows it will be years before we reach a balance."

This is particularly true for the USA, whose current account deficit rose to $160.7bn last year. The Americans are also being punished because their trade gap had to be financed by capital from abroad. Increasing amounts of interest has to be paid overseas, making it fundamentally difficult to cut the deficit.

Also, US industry can hardly increase foreign trade over a short period. The Americans are already pushed to the limit of their capacities and the danger of inflation is growing through the export boom.

This strengthens the arguments onceused by the administration that others' protectionism was partly to blame for the US deficit.

Further successes in reducing the imbalance could defuse the protectionist debate with its mutual accusations — and ease the Uruguay Round of Gatt talks in Punta del Este.

In the final communiqué at the Toronto conference the heads of government again declared themselves in favour of free world trade. EC Commissioner Willy de Clerq said the conference had been harmonious. No "fundamental differences" had emerged.

But despite this, doubts about will to lower trade barriers were not dispelled.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl was tireless in giving assurances to President Reagan and Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney that after the creation of the Single European Market in 1992 the EC would not be "shut off to the outside."

But he said that after the American-Canadian free trade agreement came into effect, European companies must be able to take advantage of the "North American Single Market."

The Europeans suspect that the US gives more importance to bilateral trade agreements to maintain its own advantages than multilaterial liberalisation within the Gatt framework — particularly if Gatt talks do not go the way the it want them to.

The trade agreement between Washington and Ottowa, which still has to be ratified, and the existing free trade agreement with Israel, are regarded by Europeans as a clue to this attitude.

There has also been disquiet that Washington has put out feelers to Australia as well as Japan, sounding out the readiness of Canberra and Tokyo to enter into similar agreements.

Just how strong the mistrust is was shown by the reaction of the Europeans when it became known that the Americans and Japanese had reached an agreement covering citrus fruit and beef.

The deal ends a long dispute between Washington and Tokyo on Japanese import restrictions.

De Clerq said: "Such agreements always include elements of selective non-discrimination." In other words: everyone else is discriminated against.

A measure of the readiness of competing trading nations to compromise will be demonstrated at the Gatt conference in Montreal, planned for December this year. At Montreal an interim review will be made of the results of the Uruguay Round.

President Reagan made clear in his opening speech at the Toronto summit what the Americans expect of the Europeans: the dismantling of all agricultural subsidies by the year 2000.

But it is not only the agricultural question that is a problem for the Gatt Round, although Bonn Economic Affairs Minister, Martin Bangemann, said this was "the most ticklish point.".

The adjustment process to trade deficits, much lauded in Toronto, can quickly come to an end and be changed from a process giving relief to a process becoming a burden — it would be if interest rates in the US continue to rise because of the mounting danger of inflation.

For a dollar exchange rate increase can quickly follow an upsurge in interest rates, with all the negative consequences that would have for the trade balance.

The Japanese, like the Germans, tried to play down the dangers. Toyo Gyohten, Japanese Finance Ministry official: "The situation does not demand any change in policy." He meant primarily interest rates.

Stoltenberg does not see "any warning signs." But since June last year the difference between interest rates in Germany and the US has widened a lot.

The difference has moved from 3.1 to 3.9 per cent for overnight money; and for three-month from 2.1 to 2.9 per cent.

Just how nervously many industriallisednations are following the fortunes of interest rates was shown on the periphery of the Toronto summit.

Some delegations regard the Deutsche Bank move to raise allotment rate on its open market business by a quarter of one per cent to 3.5 per cent as a violation of the Louvre Agreement for the stabilisation of the dollar.

The critics said the Deutsche Bank had not told other central banks in time. Bonn was lucky that irritation over currency was compensated for by progress made in trade sector.

But it was decided in Toronto to dismantle one trade barrier. Japan's Foreign Affairs Minister, Sousuke Uno, gave in to the pressure exerted for three years by the British and assured Sir Geoffrey Howe that the import duty on Scotch Whisky would be halved.

Uno said: "I hope that in future I shall be able to drink a Scotch at home at a reasonable price."

Wilfried Herz

(Wirtschaftswoche, Dusseldorf, 24 June 1988)

Hanover: Delors stays on as Commission head

Jacques Delors, 53, is to remain President of the European Commission. The Euro Summit in Hanover decided to reappoint him for a second four-year term rather than go for the German candidate, Martin Bangemann. It seems likely that Bangemann, a member of the FDP, will become Commissioner for Industry and Research in place of another German, Karl-Heinz Narjes. Delors, a French socialist, becomes the first Commissioner to be appointed for more than the usual four years since a German, Walter Hallstein, who held office from 1958 to 1967. Germany's six months as chairman of the Community received praise at Hanover, especially for freeing movement of capital, helping professional qualifications to become more widely recognised and the liberalisation of road haulage regulations. This article, by Peter Abspacher, appeared in the *Nürnberger Nachrichten*.

Chancellor Kohl can take satisfaction from both the Hanover Summit and the six months chairmanship of the Community, which has now ended.

Fresh momentum in Europe is to be welcomed at a time when the Bonn coalition is in some turmoil and the will for reform is lacking.

Kohl is right in asserting that our future lies with the European Community. If the 12 member-states progress bravely towards a Single European Market, Germany will always be among the gainers.

It was clearly established in Hanover that this process was irreversible for the entire 12. It is not so important whether the big decisions are made a few years sooner or a few years later.

These mainly concern the harmonisation of the differing taxation systems and the development of a European monetary system.

What is important is that the sincere will of the partners should not desert the line of action conceived by the President of the European Commission, Jacques Delors, and supported personally by Helmut Kohl.

The European Council reflected in Hanover on the tasks before it. These are, to give the Community a sense of motivation, challenge and perspective, instead of being petty-minded about details of Community finances and fighting over agricultural policy.

The Hanover conference only made a few decisions, but they were in the right direction. The most important was that Delors is to remain president of the Commission.

The Commission is fortunate in having him at its head. His authority and competence have led Europe out of the 1986-1987 depression.

At that time the Community's finances were on the verge of falling into chaos. There was almost no money at all, not only for agriculture but also for future tasks, such as promoting high technology and building up massive funds for structural assistance to the poorer regions.

Without these funds social benefits would not be available to them in the Single European Market project.

The Delors package, endorsed at the Brussels summit in February by Kohl's skilful support, marked a change for the better.

The industrially strong nations, including Britain, had to make financial compromises.

Margaret Thatcher, who had long made life difficult in the EC with pure obstruction, was prepared to compromise.

The Iron Lady was not an easy negotiating partner in Hanover. But in the end she agreed to a compromise to which all could agree.

Supported by a few selected experts, the 12 central bank governors have a year to consider the question of closer cooperation in financial policies. They then have to present precise proposals and a timetable.

The distant aim of a European Central Bank, an horrific idea for Mrs Thatcher, is not mentioned in the form of the agreement.

Mrs Thatcher has to recognise that visions of the future which do not please her have a life of their own and develop.

Jacques Delors, who is in charge of the central bankers' committee, will ensure this happens.

Another theme was discussed earnestly for the first time in Hanover. It

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■ INDUSTRY

Cash-strapped Iranians put pressure on troubled Krupp

Krupp, the big steelmaker, is facing huge losses and an acute crisis. Speculation is that heads on the board will roll. In the late 1970s, Iranian interests paid 1.4 billion marks for 25 per cent of Krupp on the advice of supervisory board chairman Berthold Beitz. At the time, the company needed money. According to one board member, the cash was used to patch up holes instead of to restructure. The Iranians have not seen much return for their investment — and they need money to fund their war with Iraq. At a meeting of the supervisory board in June, a top-level Iranian official said he was no longer prepared to let things carry on as they had been. The usual words of gratitude for the board of directors was struck from the supervisory board's 1987 balance sheet and, in an unusual move, an outside firm of accountants is being brought in to make a special audit. This article was written by Leonhard Spielhofer and appeared in the *Stuttgarter Zeitung*.





Steely confrontation. From left: Navab-Motlagh, Beitz, Schneider.

(Photos: dpa, archives)

Krupp, the Ruhr coal and steel group, has been at the receiving end of unflattering headlines.

"Dismantling of the Krupp Group Continues," one local newspaper proclaimed, while another asked: "Who Is To Go At Krupp: Beitz or Scheider?" A third had no doubts on the matter, saying: "Beitz Must Go."

The latest, dramatic turn of events came when shareholders refused to approve the performance of the board of directors at a meeting of the supervisory board.

Iran, with a 25-per-cent stake in the company, had long threatened to deal this particular blow, but when it came both boards seemed poorly prepared and taken by surprise.

Yet who has been hardest-hit, supervisory board chairman Berthold Beitz or management board chairman Wilhelm Scheider? Who is to go? Either or both?

But personalities are less at stake than the principles of company policy. Mohamed Navab-Motlagh, former Iranian ambassador in Bonn and now a Teheran Finance Ministry official, told the meeting.

He was simply no longer prepared to put up with the way the company was run, he hectored his nonplussed fellow-directors in their pin-striped suits.

Krupp is going through a sticky patch. Long beset by top management problems. Krupp's net profit last year was abysmal and the company looks like making heavy losses in its industrial plant division this year.

Navab's main interest was in how the management planned to run the company, still one of the largest in Germany with a payroll of 65,000 and annual turnover of DM14bn.

He was not the only plaintiff. Even supervisory board members who had let Herr Beitz have his say for years suddenly criticised the board.

The problems are certainly mounting. Their outward manifestation, the refusal to approve the performance of the board of directors, testifies to an acute crisis of both leadership and business activity, the end of which is not yet in sight.

Board chairman Wilhelm Scheider emphasised the sunnier side of Krupp's business activities in a recent interview with the *Frankfurter Allgemeine*. Orders are up this year and weak links have been eliminated.

But he failed to mention increasing losses in industrial technology and plant construction that led to the supervisory board's refusal to approve the directors' performance in 1987 and may yet cost him his chairmanship of the board.

Mention is now made of impending losses cautiously estimated at about DM400m, or ten times last year's profits (and they were in all probability taken from the company's reserves).

In an unusual move for a company of Krupp's size a special audit of the industrial plant division by an outside firm of accountants has been ordered.

The board of directors, which as recently as last autumn held forth the possibility of profits in this division, will face unpleasant question. The audit may reveal unpleasant surprises.

This discrepancy between the board's words and deeds upset both the representatives of German shareholders on the supervisory board and the two Iranian members of the board, who started the ball rolling by withholding approval of the board of directors' management performance.

The customary expression of gratitude to the board of directors for its successful management activity was the first paragraph to go, being struck from the supervisory board's minutes on the 1987 balance sheet.

The Iranians are really riled. Iran, as a developing country, lent the rich Germans development aid in the late 1970s by paying DM1.4bn for a 25-per-cent shareholding in Krupp on the advice of the Krupp family's executor, Herr Beitz.

The company, almost out of funds at the time, was suddenly awash with ready cash, much to the surprise of its competitors.

But it failed to stage a comeback and proved a bad investment for Iran. Krupp did not spend lavishly: the DM1.4bn from Iran vanished without trace in the company's various expenditure accounts.

As one member of the supervisory board now puts it, the money was merely used to patch up the company's weak spots rather than to restructure the group.

It was a raw deal for the Iranians, who benefited neither from the technology transfer on which the Shah had been so keen nor from a reasonable cash return on their investment.

In the 1980s Krupp dividends paid to Tehran have totalled a bare DM50m — and Iran needs every penny it can earn to finance the Gulf War at a time when oil revenues have plummeted.

Mohamed-Mehdi Navab-Motlagh was despatched, as a Deputy Minister, to collect interest payments on foreign investments made in the Shah's days.

Krupp was one of his ports of call. Unlike the majority shareholder, the Krupp Foundation, his country was not a charitable institution, he said, and insisted on a reasonable return on its investment.

According to eyewitness reports the supervisory board meeting at which he made this remark was both critical and unprecedentedly chaotic.

Navab sarcastically noted that there were no "emergency exits." His country's stake in Krupp was such an unattractive investment that there were simply no potential buyers.

He and other board members recalled that dividends had been miserable for years. During Herr Scheider's chairmanship of the board of directors Krupp turnover had totalled nearly DM130bn, but dividends after tax have been less than DM600m, or not even 0.5 per cent.

That places Krupp firmly at the tail end of the earnings league for companies of its size. One division or another has always been in trouble.

If it wasn't steel it was shipbuilding or a technological flop, as in environmental engineering, and world markets are now in decline in the very sector where Krupp is most heavily committed: turnkey and large-scale plant construction.

The dilemma is heightened by organisational shortcomings and by faulty controlling. The much-vaunted major restructuring designed to transform Krupp into a flourishing technology group has made little mor than initial headway, a company survey says.

Major problem areas such as shipyards have been abandoned and the steelmaking division has been more or less put right by strict rationalisation and the gradual closure of the Rheinhausen works (with invaluable backing from Mannesmann and Thyssen).

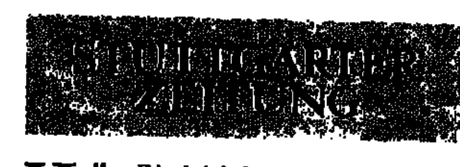
But the three linked rings, the Krupp logo, and what it unmistakably used to stand for have paled in international significance.

Only the group's Atlas-Elektronik,

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■ THE WORKFORCE

For the job-seeking young, most roads lead to high-tech Munich



Heike Riedel left secondary school and started looking for work. She applied to be a bank clerk. She applied to become a dental assistant. She tried and tried.

She wrote 300 letters of application — and on five occasions she got as far as an interview.

Heike went to commercial college and, after four years of trying around her home in the Ruhr, she was suddenly successful. She is now an office trainee in Munich.

The trend has established itself. Munich has become a high-tech centre and people like Heike, despairing of ever finding a job near the home town, find that the road to Munich is the one to take.

An organisation has even been established to help people who are prepared to go to the big city. Ausbildung und Wohnen was set up in 1986 by six Catholic youth organisations together with the Munich Labour Office.

A year before, personal contacts between career advisers from the Labour Offices in Paderborn, in the Ruhr, and Munich opened up the way for developing new approaches in helping young people looking for work.

While almost 50 per cent of the trainee places for young people in Munich remained vacant in 1986-1987, young people in Paderborn wanting job-training were among the unemployed.

Tradesmen, banks and doctors in Munich badly need trainees. The natural solution seemed to be to bring them in from outside.

So, at the beginning, applicants were flown from various areas to Munich at public expense by a plane under charter to Nixdorf computers. The trip was worth it for almost all the job-seekers.

Herbert Reimann, head of the advice centre in Munich's Labour Office, said: "They looked at me as if I was telling them something out of this world." He gave them names and addresses of potential employees.

It was soon realised that it was not enough merely to pass on names. The group also, and unexpectedly, became confidantes. The young job seekers needed adult advice on problems such as homesickness and the difficulties of finding somewhere to live.

To avoid having to deal with the special accommodation problems at a later date Herbert Reimann decided to deal with the difficulty in a new manner.

In cooperation with representatives from youth hostels (mainly Catholic organisations) arrangements were made to help these young people cope with being separated from parents, friends and acquaintances and to facilitate their settling down in Munich. How does one find one's way about a new city?

In spring 1985 Melanie Pöttner left her home in Warburg to take up a job as a trainee hairdresser in Munich.

Talking about living in Munich she said: "If anyone had said to me in the first days, Mel have a good cry, I would have cried my eyes out."

Worries of this sort are routine for Rupert Sporrer, one of the social workers who is taking part in the "Training and Living" project. But, he said, few had given up their trainee jobs in the first weeks.

His responsibilities are very diverse. He not only helps the young people to settle in but he accompanies them to job interviews and advises them on how they can use their leisure time.

This extends from going to concerts, to ninepin bowling evenings or group skiing weekends.

In this way most young people quickly make friends. But the major problem for the "Training and Living" project is still accommodation-hunting.

Rupert Sporrer explained: "Many youth hostels only take in lads." This means that only a part of his accommodation problem is solved, because three-quarters of the trainees who come from Westphalia are girls.

Some youth hostels have changed their admission conditions, but Sporrer still had a problem with the girls.

He said: "Not everyone is prepared to live in a home." Many of the girl trainees found the home rules, fixed times when one had to be back and be in the hotel for meals restrictive.

For this reason project officials turned to renting whole flats.

But the trainees could not pay for these flats from their small wages as trainees. The plan would not have got off the ground without "career training financial assistance."

The Nuremberg-based National Labour Office offers up to DM1,000 per month for every trainee who takes up a job far from home under the "equalising labour allocation" regulations. A room in a hostel cannot be had for less than DM600 a month.

Melanie Pöttner, Sigrid Jochheim and Birgit Kaufhold live together, sharing one of these flats in the Ramersdorf district of Munich. They have not regretted their decision to move in together.

They all agreed that it gave them more freedom. Sigrid Jochheim, 22, training to be a dentist's assistant, said that one had to adjust to the habits of the others.

She will be leaving Munich in August, having completed her training, and because her boy-friend is waiting for her in Warburg. She admits that her relationship with him had sometimes been in the balance during her training period. She said: "It is not easy when you are a long way away from one another."

It can be asked if the money made available for helping young people to get jobs far from home is wisely spent. This question has not been put to Herbert Reimann for the first time.

He said: "That is a question we cannot answer. The simplest solution is the creation of trainee jobs where they are needed, but that cannot always be realised."

Reimann does point out, however, that several politicians have called for greater mobility among young people. He said: "But the same flexibility cannot be demanded of adolescents as from adults."

No-one knows how many of the trainees from Paderborn, Papenburg, Bremen or Leer will remain in Munich when their training period is ended. The "first generation" will complete their training this summer.

Rupert Sporrer knows that many of them hope to be able to get a permanent job at home when their training period in Munich is ended.

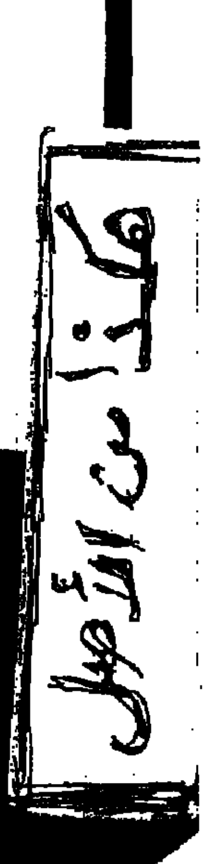
But as always the rule of thumb applies: "Any training is better than none," Herbert Reimann said.

Melanie Pöttner will work as a young hairdresser in Munich from October onwards. After her experience in this scheme for getting a trainee job she was asked if she would do it again.

She replied: "Of course I would. It's better to get a trainee job in Munich than to sit at home doing nothing."

Ralf Köpke

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 4 June 1988)



Trainees take over running of supermarket

A project where trainees were allowed to run a supermarket on their own resulted in an increase in turnover of between five and seven per cent. The experiment, in Heidelberg, left 18 trainees running the show in place of the usual nine employees. The nine were deployed elsewhere for the two months. A survey revealed that customers were impressed by the rapid service during the project. The rise in turnover was achieved mainly by the use of promotions in which cheese, fruit drinks or sausage were offered at tasting stalls in the supermarket. The biggest problem appeared to be in the field of ordering and maintaining sufficient stocks. Inexperience led to shortages and bottlenecks. Ulla Cramer reports for *Mannheimer Morgen.*

Trainees ran one Heidelberg branch of the Nanz-Markt chain of supermarkets on their own for two months.

The supermarket proclaimed the event with a poster in a window. The project has now ended and the nine original staff have returned from their temporary postings in other branches.

Most of the trainees were disappointed that their management stint had ended. They would have liked to carry on.

Many customers also expressed regret. A survey revealed great praise for the trainees. Customers were particularly impressed by the friendly and swift service.

It was not all plain sailing, of course. There were at first, for instance, times when items were not on the shelves.

Hannelore Gundlach, head of the chain's training programme in Heidelberg and Stuttgart, said: "This was a real problem at first. One evening it came to light that no-one had ordered milk for the next day."

She said that the 18-year-old "supermarket manager" had not tried to reach anyone at the supply warehouse until half past three in the night.

Then on another occasion people were invited to a sekt (sparkling wine" tasting. When people enthusiastically asked for the drink it was discovered that stocks were exhausted.

It is, in fact, no simple matter ordering goods. Non-perishable merchandise has to be re-ordered once a week, perishable goods every day. This includes orders for milk, milk products, bread and frozen foods.

And that's not all. Goods have to be priced, positioned and stacked — that can take up a lot of time.

In addition the trainees tried to satisfy "special wishes." When a customer asked for a specific product they moved heaven and earth to get that product.

The business success was obvious. The cash register rang out incessantly, Frau Grundlach estimates that the trainees achieved an increase in turnover of between 5 and 7 per cent. They did this by any number of promotions.

Customers were offered not only sekt but also cheese titbits, fruit drinks or various sorts of sausage. Asparagus and strawberries were displayed on special stands in the supermarket. The range of confectionaries was extended.

They also changed the supermarket's opening times — they did away with the mid-day break.

Hannelore Grundlach said that the young people's involvement was impressive. She was pleased with what had been achieved.

There were, of course, good times and bad. There was a period in the middle of the trainee project when they were all totally depressed and the situation could only be brought back to normal after a discussion.

In an interview with this newspaper Frau Grundlach said, looking back over the project, that some of them bottled things up inside themselves.

One wanted to work in another department, another complained about an idle colleague — after a row which cleared the air all was again well.

Markus Bächstädt and Siggi Kopp, who were co-managers, realised that it is not easy to get 18 co-workers to pull together.

Although the "real" manager was in the background, the trainees had to manage for the most part on their own.

This was achieved in the most difficult matter — the work schedule.

A particular problem in this respect is that like all staff in the retail trade the Nanz trainees have the right to a day off once a week, because of their longer working day.

"Cashier" Sabine Netter said that this was "a definite plus" and compensated for having to work late in the evening.

She said that she was not interested in an office job. "I like having to do with people," she said, adding, "I need a job where I can really knuckle down to things."

The Heidelberg trainees also got on very well together privately — during the trainee project they met in their free-time and did things together, the high point being a trip to Paris.

Despite these friendships, however, in front of customers they were formal with one another. "Boss" Markus Bächstädt said that this gave customers a feeling that they were serious about their work.

Since all the trainees came from Heidelberg, they can continue with their newly-found friendships.

Most of them volunteered for the trainee project. Now one or two of them have been promoted.

Four of them have already been given posts as deputy assistant managers and will later be number two in a Nanz supermarket.

Ulla Cramer

(Mannheimer Morgen, 27 June 1988)

■ AVIATION

Manslaughter charge possible if Airbus crash probe blames pilot error

French officials say that if pilot error is revealed as the reason for the crash of the Airbus 320 in eastern France late last month, manslaughter charges could be brought. Three died and 20 were injured when the aircraft, carrying 136 passengers and crew on a demonstration flight at an airshow near Mulheim, failed to clear trees at the edge of the runway and came down in flames. A French Transport Ministry preliminary report said the crash was not the result of a malfunction in any of the aircraft's highly sophisticated electronic systems. But inquiries are proceeding. The result is important. The Airbus 320's "fly-by-wire" system uses electronic signals to control the aircraft's movements instead of the traditional mechanical system and extravagant claims had been made for it. After the crash, both British Airways and Air France grounded their A 320s, but following the preliminary hearing, have resumed flights. Airbus, which is a four-nation consortium including Germany, Britain, France and Spain, fears that sales will be hit if it is found that a fault in the aircraft's technology was to blame. In this story for the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, Gerd Höhler says that the investigation might have consequences for future generations of the Airbus as well.

The crash of a new Airbus 320 at an air show near Mulhouse in eastern France came just as the Airbus consortium thought it was on the way up commercially after years of economic turbulence.

The crash happened only six weeks after the last major order. In mid-May the US leasing company, ILFC, ordered 46 Airbuses from Airbus-Industrie in Toulouse, including 18 of the new A 320s. This order seemed to show that Airbus was finally out of the doldrums.

The first Airbus, the A 300, made its maiden flight in 1969, but initial sales were sluggish and the consortium seemed to be running out of steam. Millions in British, French and German taxpayers' money had been ploughed in.

Gradual expansion of the range was a step in the right direction. The A 300, too large for many airlines, was joined by the A 310. Long-range versions of the A 300 and the A 310, both of which were first designed for short- and medium-haul traffic, are now used on transatlantic routes.

The Airbus consortium rates highly the latest model, the short- and medium-hault A 320, designed to seat between 130 and 180.

It is a twin-jet airliner designed to replace the ageing Boeing 727s and Douglas DC-9s.

By the turn of the century world demand is expected to total about 3,000 units, of which the A 320 could account for maybe one in three, or 1,000 aircraft.

That seemed a not unrealistic expectation, especially as Boeing, the world's largest manufacturer of non-military aircraft, last year postponed indefinitely development of the B 7X7, which was to have competed with the A 320.

This decision was prompted by technical hitches with the new propfan engines (a propeller-jet hybrid) planned for the 7X7, by spiralling development costs and by lack of interest shown by the airlines.

The A 320 in contrast was airborne straight from the drawing-board. Before it even made its maiden flight there were 439 firm orders and options placed for the new Airbus — more than any other airliner had managed at the drawing-board stage.

Orders, including options and declarations of intent, now total 512 — from 21 airlines.

Airbus sales staff pride themselves on having sold many A 320s in North America, the back garden of Boeing and McDonnell Douglas. Northwest Airlines has ordered 100 and PanAm 16.

The A 320 was put through its paces at record speed, licensed by US and European civil aviation authorities and taken into service by British Airways and Air France this spring.

Hours after the crash Air France cancelled A 320 flights that previously been publicised at great expense. British Airways also took its A 320s out of service.

Grounding until cause of crash is known is a routine precaution. But the crash and the grounding (the grounding has now been lifted by both airlines) have hit the Airbus consortium hard.

(There have been four other Airbus crashes in its 18 years. But only one with fatalities. Last year, five crew on an Egyptair A 300 died when it crashed on a training flight.)

Queries have now arisen about Airbus safety. Claims for aircraft safety must always be taken with a pinch of salt. Aircraft reliability can only be determined over a long period.

Roughly 410 Airbuses are flying. Their average age is much lower than that of the far larger fleets of Boeings and McDonnell Douglases.

Experts work on the assumption that all three leading manufacturers make airliners roughly equal in reliability. The reason why they are so keen to learn what caused this crash is not that the plane was an Airbus but that it was a brand new A 320.

Chock full of new technology, the A 320 is felt to be the first of a new generation of commercial airliners. It is the first really new development for 15 years and the first to harness the sum total of technological progress made since the early 1970s.

It does so in aerodynamics, in using new, lightweight materials and, above all, in its use of electronics.

Fly by wire is the new concept, so far tested only in a handful of military aircraft. It has led to revolutionary changes in cockpit design, handling and the pilot's work.

Fly by wire means, in a nutshell, that instructions are no longer relayed mechanically via cable to the rudder, flaps, spoilers and so on. Instead, they are relayed electrically.

Electrical transmission of signals to the power valves and motors eliminates many mechanical parts and cuts weight considerably. With conventional controls the A 320 would weigh roughly 600kg (1,320lb) more.

That means fuel savings and played a large part in the A 320's sales success story.

Per passenger mile it runs on roughly 40 per cent less fuel than the three-jet Boeing 727.

But the crucial benefits of fly by wire are the result of computerisation potential. Flight data such as engine power, flap positions, rudder position, speed and angle can be continuously relayed to and processed by the plane's computers.

Critical, unstable flight conditions can thus be spotted early and automatically rectified, such by automatic stabilisation in the event of an engine breakdown during take-off.

Electronics, at least in theory, is supposed to offset the element of human error, with computers reacting faster, more precisely and less emotionally than a hard-pressed cockpit crew.

Before licensing the new Airbus test engineers of the US and European civil aviation authorities thoroughly tested both the hardware and the software of the new system, being well aware that it was a technical innovation.

Airbus engineers say the electronics is much less likely to break down than conventional controls. Besides, an emergency mechanical system is available should it still happen.

It is theoretically conceivable that the pilots of the A 320 that crashed took off at too low a speed and gained too little elevation.

This was the surmise made by Bavarian Premier Franz Josef Strauss, supervisory board chairman of Airbus Industrie and a keen private pilot.

The plane might have come close to the point at which the wind current fails to provide wing uplift. Even if the electronics gave an added boost as planned at this stage the plane might already have hit the treetops, an obstacle the plane's computers are not programmed to take into account.

Engineers of the 21 airlines that are committed to buying A 320s will be particularly impatient to learn the answers to the questions the crash posed.

They include Lufthansa, the German flag-carrier.

The crash probe may also have consequences for the development of the next two versions of the Airbus planned, the four-jet long-haul A 340 and the twin-jet SST, A 330, both of which are scheduled to fly by wire.

Gerd Höhler

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 28 June 1988)

Continued from page 7

Widia and Werner & Pfleiderer divisions are in any way above-average.

So must Scheider go, or is it to be Beitz? Herr Beitz, 75, who represents the majority shareholder, cannot be forced to resign. But the signs are that he may before long have to.

His place will be taken, if rumours are right, by Veba chief executive Rudolf von Bennigsen-Foerder, who would then be the most powerful and influential company executive in the Rhine-Ruhr region.

He is known to have no qualms about swift and unemotional action on manpower matters. So the outlook may be less than good for Herr Scheider.

Leonhard Spielhofer

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 26 June 1988)

■ ARCHITECTURE

Deserved rejection for German entrants as Italian design wins museum competition

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Germany is casting admiring glances at France these days; and it is showing a love of things Italian.

This is making the age-old German sense of self-hatred the appearance of being a worldliness instead. But what it really is doing is confirming the Germans' romantic provincialism.

Just before the advent of the frontier-free European in 1992, the relationship between Paris and Bonn seems both politically and economically to be well-moulded.

The German-Italian cultural intermezzo is at the moment fashionable. German interest in a cultural dialogue with *modern* Italy, with its arts scholars, its literature, music and architecture, seems to be greater now than at any time since 1945.

For long enough, Italians have complained that Germans saw their country as a mixture of sun, mafia and spaghetti clichés and, above all, an archaeological art world made to glow eternally through Goethe's *Italian Journey*.

North of the Alps, big names such as Fellini, Sophia Loren, Moravia or Nono are quoted as examples of current Italian culture.

The most spectacular instance of "italianità" has been revealed in Berlin by Bonn Minister of Construction, Oscar Schneider.

The first prize for the design for the German Historical Museum to be built in Berlin was awarded to the Milan architect, Aldo Rossi. It is worth DM150,000.

This was a resounding box round the ears for the 216 German architects who competed along with four "invited" foreigners.

The Germans deserved the box round the ears, even though the best German designs did battle for a share of the DM660,000 prize money.

But their designs were for the most part shameless imitations of new museums which have been built in Germany by foreign architects, buildings by Hollein, Stirling, Dissing and Weitling, and Richard Meier.

So, there is no reason why a foreigner should not design a German museum. So far, no Italian has designed a German museum.

What is the matter with the architectural faculties of our universities?

The chairman of the judging panel, or jury, was Max Bächer from Darmstadt. Members included such renowned architects as Harald Deilmann, Gustav Peichl, Karljosef Schattner, Luigi Snozzi, Ben Betz, Klaus Humpert and Rob Drier.

The designs were submitted anonymously. Nothing would have been easier to make the jury responsible, once more, for the failure of German architects: it was essential that it was guided only by quality.

The qualitative difference between the first and the sixth prize-winner was not that great — and sixth place was worth a good prize of DM40,000, anyway.

For this reason, the patrons of the competition, the Bonn government and the *Land* of Berlin, should review again all of the 11 designs purchased before going ahead.

How should, or could, a museum appear, a museum "of German history with its European connnections and its internal diversity," according to the text outlining the aims of the competition, so that no-one takes on too much "closed history" or even "a view of history decreed by officialdom," as promised by Chancellor Kohl?

The plot for the museum is enormous, 36,000 square metres, much bigger the neighbouring Reichstag.

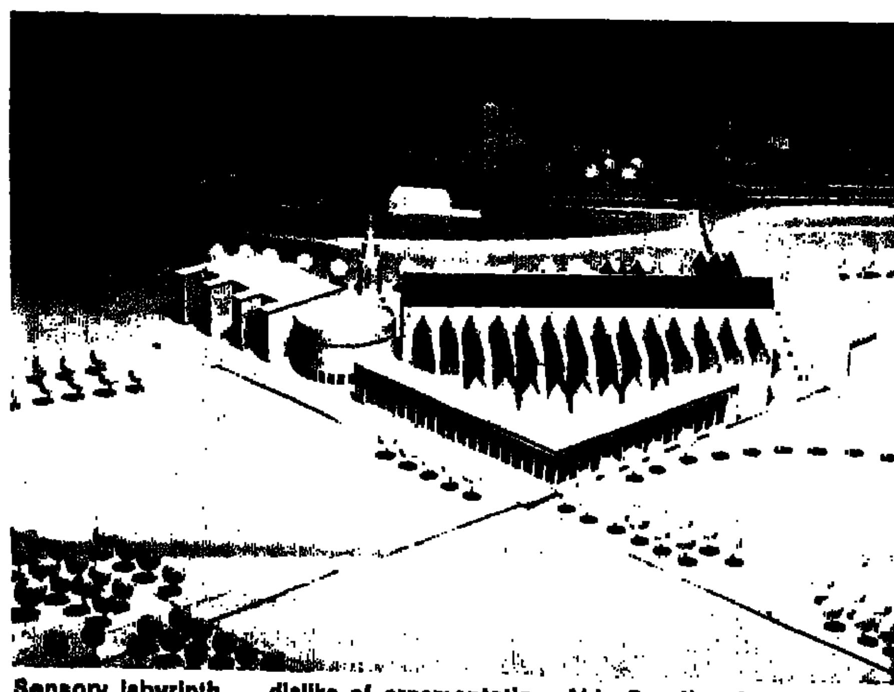
Several architects praised the fact that, from the outset, it was made clear what the variouis functions of the building would be.

"Theme rooms" in the middle with small rooms for exhibitions at the sides and massive rooms dealing with epochs at the front.

To these were to be added rooms for alternating exhibitions, for instruction using film, for the reception hall "with a bookshop and the first major exhibits," for the restaurant, the storerooms, the workshops, administration and so on.

The plot lies to the right-hand of that sightline that links the old Reichstag Building with the Congress Hall, that is, optically, the neo-renaissance of the 19th century to the space architecture of 1957 with all its optimism, Europe with America.

It is a massive corner plot, a five-sided asymetrical shape at the beginning of the famous curve in the Spree (the river that runs through Berlin), which has already animated architects to monumental visions of a plaza, the Platz der Republik which was once called Königsplatz.



Sensory labyrinth ... dislike of ornamentation. Aldo Rossi's winning design for museum in Berlin. (Photo: Bauministerium)

Oswald Mathias Ungers is one of the few architects who has defined the interior rooms of the new building from the historical exterior.

His ground plan showed a sloping, indented rectangle. He has proposed a provoking antrium, opened up to the Spree, whose exhibition halls are quite simple, in U-form rings, grouped round the quadratic interior courtyard.

The facade is succinct and serious. The design makes distinctions in a very beautiful, discreet colour arrangement.

The layout gives the cold shoulder to the Reichstag Building and Ungers, the guru of the quadratic, does not know where to begin with a blunt angle running into Moltke Street.

Ungers, whose designs were purchased, is scarcely weaker than the second prize-winner, the Hamburg architect Schweger.

Schweger also puts a building design next to the edge of Moltke Street. On the quadratic ground plan he has a large, bright hall that has the effect of having been just added.

Schweger places a round "themes tower" in the interior hall, which is reminiscent of the Nationalgalerie by Mies van der Rohe, a series of high, slim pillars that draw attention to the entrance. Schweger, a man from Hamburg of all places, is very unkind in his treatment of the river bank.

This was altogether a clearer, a more open, a functionally plausible contribution, but less exciting than Ungers' design, or, for example, the prize-winner in 5th place, Büro Gerber from Dortmund.

Gerber begins with a hall, again with a quadratic ground plan, that convenes in the interior around a cross-shaped courtyard, externally in a bold footbridge from the facade arcade to a long jetty and walk, which links the museum with the Spree (optically) and the Congress Hall.

Fundamentally there were only two possibilities for the advocates of a unified fabric: either to design a cubic or a circular whole in the asymetrical five-sided plot and then to include in some way the remaining area; or to fill the shapeless "cake mould" with building spurs and to make distinctions in the interior.

Wilhelm Holzbauer from Vienna decided upon the second possibility. He won the 6th prize.

Holzbauer compensated for the lack of a compact block with a confusing but wise internal structure of alleys, courtyards, passages and stairways, that was certainly appropriate in Berlin's Kreuzberg district as in this park and residentrial-like area.

The design from the 3rd prize-winner, Axel Schultes from Berlin, filled the "cake-mould" plot in the same way as Holzbauer.

He raised the exterior building at the perimeter of the plot near the Spree Bridge as well as the interior.

He introduced a touch of an old European town with ponds, stairways, courtyards and towers (the silhouette is reminiscent of San Gimignano in Tuscany) behind eight-metre high massive walls made less harsh by vertical vents and trees.

The towers conjure up the German longing for Italy, but also the corner towers of Wallot's Reichstag.

The various building units are connected at all levels by stairways and bridges. An open glass roof covers the whole of the "Old Town".

The "city walls" extend to the Congress Hall, continued as senseless walls, as it were — homage to the divided character of Berlin itself, but also a practical protection to an extended Spree promenade.

This was an exciting, artistic design, historically, and from a civic construction point of view, sensitive, a city within a city.

Exciting

This was also the idea of the winner, Aldo Rossi, but, one could say, conceived more intellectually as a sensory labyrinth than Schultes' design. It is academic, dry.

Aldo Rossi was born in Milan in 1931. He is regarded as the founder of post-war Italian rationalism.

His design seeks the corresponding geometry of a Boullée, but is disciplined by the work of Adolf Loos, who despised ornamentation.

Rossi intends to construct in his city architecture the history of civic building. Like Palladio he sees the city as a house, the house as city, admittedly enriched around the interplay of the historical process.

Rossi links "crystalline lack of compromise," as V. Lampagnani put it, with historical contemplation.

Rossi's design for Berlin is a collage of various building types, similar to Sterling's Scientific Centre, but larger and more poetic.

The entrance is marked by a rotunda, that quotes the French revolutionary architect Ledoux as well as the Kuppelsaal, designed by Schinkel for the Altes Museum in East Berlin.

Next to the rotunda a colonnade built round the area surrounds the courtyard, in which Rossi wants a German oak and Italian marble column — "as captured by German travellers in their sketches." This is a touch of German longing for Italy, a constant in German history.

The main building has the effect of a Gothic cathedral. It has, as side chapels, houses with gabled roofs from the Middle Ages.

From the didactic point of view Rossi calls to mind the Reichsbank cubes of Mies van der Rohe.

It also lends to the Spree the impression of a church tower, calling to mind the sentiments of the circular Paulskirche in Frankfurt.

Is this all historical kitsch? An orgy of the post-modern? This rendezvous with building history does raise a few doubts but there was no better design.

The people for whom this building is being constructed should nevertheless give a little consideration to the serious but less bold work of Schultes.

Mathias Schreiber

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 June 1988)

■ ANTHROPOLOGY

Return to Thule and the ancient culture of the wandering Eskimo

Bremer Nachrichten

The mistress of sea creatures and of the sea was angry beyond all measure. The great speech she made to the blind, who were sent to her, ended in a reproach.

"Mankind did not want to lead an orderly life and on account of their great indifference I have to live in filth.

"Their defiance flowed over me like uncleanness and besmeared me and made me dirty."

The Old Woman, who rules beyond the great rivers, was made clean by a blind seaman, according to the Eskimo fairy-tale entitled *Imap Ukûa, the Mother of the Seas.*

"For the sins of mankind flow over her like filth and make her dirty and dreadful."

The culture, which so wisely describes in so fairy-tale-like a manner the connection of an environment kept clean and human welfare, is the theme of a summer exhibition at Cologne's Rautenstrauch-Joest Museum for Ethnology.

The exhibition is entitled *Eskimo* and shows with the museum's own exhibits and items on loan from the Munich Museum for Ethnology, the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt, the König Museum in Bonn and from private collections, the living conditions of the original inhabitants of the North American Arctic.

A Museum spokesman said: "Thanks to the new ecological awareness of society today we have a lot in common with the Eskimos.

"The expression primitive people applies to them in an especial way, for they consciously live close to nature, and under the extreme living conditions prevailing in the Arctic, where the cool summer lasts only a couple of months and ten months of the year it is dark during the day."

The Eskimos, who live for months on end in perpetual night, are confronted by extraordinarily hard living conditions when it is light. At least from the European viewpoint.

On the Museum's invitation card to the exhibition there is a quote from Immanuel Kant, dating from 1802.

He wrote: "The Eskimos, whom Captain Ellis encountered on the sea close to Hudson Bay, were affable and clever.

"They travelled with dogs, as in Siberia, except that the dogs there do not bark. They provide for themselves on their journeys with a bladder full of whale oil, from which they drank with delight."

A few decades before Kant wrote this there were a few reports and drawings published on the Eskimos' life from George Fraser who was with Captain Cook on his world voyage.

The Cologne exhibition shows the traditional winter and summer life of Eskimos. With great care a trapper's camp has been reconstructed with items from the rich Rousselot Collection, brought together on the spot between 1975 and 1988.

The exhibition includes a false-bottomed tent, items of clothing made from skins and a whale oil lamp to read by.

Some of the exhibits are evidence of contact with the rest of the world, the kerosine stove, for instance, that provided warmth in place of the whale oil lamp. The women still sew the snow-shoes for the family themselves.

With the coming of whalers from the United States and Europe about 1850 important trading relations were established.

The Eskimos exchanged fish and skins for flints, metal objects and cotton cloth.

At the beginning of the 20th century they devoted themselves to the profitable fur trade. But the inroads into the continued existence of animals with a valuable fur and dependence on fluctuating fur auctions presented them with increasing difficulties.

In the 1940s the Americans established military bases in the Arctic and multinationals began to exploit the region's mineral resources.

The Eskimos are known as Innuits in their own language, a word signifying "Man." The word "Eskimo" is said to be a contemptuous reproach applied to them by the Algonquin Indians meaning "eater of raw meat." With the arrival of the multinationals they found work as bulldozer drivers, mechanics and electricians, but they were cut off from the traditions of their ancestors. The dog sledge has been replaced by the snow-mobile. The Cologne exhibition gives consideration to this change under the sub-title *Eskimos today*. The culture of the people has remained constant. Six thousand years Before Christ they emigrated into the Arctic from Siberia over the land-bridge that then existed across the Bering Sea. Early finds of Eskimo culture have been found in Thule in north-west Greenland.



Waiting for the multinationals. (Photo: Catalogue)

There are two exhibition cases in the Cologne exhibition displaying items from the Thule culture, loaned from the Jaeger Collection.

A figure of a human head made of ivory, dating from the first century AD, shows the nose in the shape of a whale's rear fin.

The figures as well as the masks and miniatures of reindeers and seals obviously originate from connections with cult activities.

The Eskimo lives in constant dependence on the animal world — for this reason the incantations of their shamen are directed to the animals they hunted and to their god-like protectors.

Ursula Bunte

(Bremer Nachrichten, 21 June 1988)

Continued from page 6

will be of great importance in the years to come. It concerned the "social dimension" of the Single European Market.

Trades unions are not jumping for joy at the dynamism for growth that is expected by sweeping aside anachronistic production and trade barriers.

They fear for rights of co-determination, fought for so toughly, as well as other gains, such as the shorter working week and similar advantages won, if many of the protective measures they have enjoyed disappear along with the frontiers.

Kohl recognises this explosive problem and a few days ago met the leaders of European trades unions. The dialogue has been started, late indeed, but started nevertheless.

The Greeks, who have just taken over the EC presidency, will have problems enough to solve.

Athens can rely on Delors, who has repeated time and time again, that an effective, united Europe must be a lot more than just a giant market of almost 350 million consumers.

Peter Abspacher

(Nürnberger Nachrichten, 29 June 1988)

Advance claimed in decoding hieroglyphics of the Maya

Archaeologists and philologists have been trying for 150 years to decipher the hieroglyphs of the Maya civilisation.

Their efforts have always ground to a halt at unproven assumptions. But now archaeologist Wolfgang Gockel, 42, has apparently succeeded.

His 400-page research paper will appear in autumn. At an international symposium organised by the Roemer-Pelizaeus Museum in Hildesheim, experts from all over the world will then have the opportunity to discuss Gockel's work.

He thinks that previous translations of the Maya characters managed to get only half the characters right.

The inscriptions that he has deciphered have been translated character for character. In this way he has a text, similar in choice of words and grammar to the dialect of the Yucatan Maya of the 16th century.

At the beginning of the 19th century Jean-Francois Champollion was able to interpret Egyptian hieroglyphs with the assistance of the trilingual Rosetta Stone, discovered in 1799 by a French officer in Napoleon's army which invaded the Nile Delta.

Gockel did much the same thing. He began with the names of famous rulers, who dominated Palenque for 400 years, a regional centre during the flowering of the Maya Culture and still an impressive city of ruins in southern Mexico.

Gockel and Maya text. (Photo: dpa)

A further aid were the numbers and a few other terms, that have been known since the 19th century, whose meaning seemed to be established.

He was also able to build on the speculations of Russian Egyptologist Juri Knorosov, who as early as 1952 maintained that the Maya had used a kind of syllable language.

As his source with a single text that was as long as possible he selected the "Temple of Inscriptions" in Palenque.

For centuries Maya artists had chiselled 620 blocks of characters into sandstone slabs. With the few morphemes (the smallest linguistic unit with a meaning) known to him he began his time-consuming examination.

Gockel said: "Slowly my feel for the character elements grew." He now knows the meaning of more than 200 glyphs, which are confirmed conceptually in three differing texts.

He believes that he has found the meaning of 500 to 600 other characters by "cross-referencing."

He said that with these meanings he can read most of the inscriptions discovered at Palenque. He said that it could not be accidental that the texts were meaningful reports of the of 400-year dynasty of Palenque.

The texts include complicated inheritance regulations, descriptions of migrations of parts of the race and warlike disputes between the individual regional centres.

He also claims to have found proof of the murder of one of the last of the Palenque rulers.

The Landa alphabet is an additional proof of the accuracy of his work. In the 16th century the Spanish priest, Diego de Landa, compared the letters of the alphabet given to him by a member of the Maya nobility with corresponding characters.

In this way it was obvious the Maya made a few mistakes, which can be explained today by Gockel's knowledge.

He said that for this reason the Landa alphabet is not a suitable starting point for research.

Wolfgang Patzkel/dpa

(Nordwest-Zeitung, Oldenburg, 24 June 1988)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Chemicals industry uses trade fair in bid to boost its public image



The beleaguered chemicals industry took the opportunity of using this year's Achema, the chemical-equipment trade fair, to try and polish its image.

Achema, which has been held every three years since 1920, shows developments in chemicals apparatus, machinery and plant design and construction. It also reveals what specialists in chemicals works and laboratories are thinking.

The industry is doing well commercially, but in the public mind, it is an environmental disaster area. At Frankfurt, mention was often made of this crisis of acceptance and efforts were made to project it as an industry that does care about ecological issues.

Environmental protection in the widest sense of the term was strongly emphasised. There was machinery and plant construction, laboratory equipment, safety engineering, measurement and control technology to process engineering and, last not least, biotechnology.

In a comprehensive special catalogue over 700 exhibitors outlined their latest developments in waste disposal, recycling technology, prevention and reduction of toxin output, sewage treatment and reclamation of contaminated soil.

Integrated process environmental protection is the latest concept coined by the chemical industry. It means the development of manufacturing processes incorporating the most advanced ecological precautions.

Biotechnology is one sector that is said to combine high chem and environmental protection, and great store is set by genetic engineering and its offshoots.

They are expected to be the future-oriented market of the 1990s, the key production technology of the 21st century and, if industrial and scientific experts are to be believed, a step in the direction from a chemical industry to an eco-industry.

Together with the Swiss and the Dutch, said Professor Hans-Jürgen Rehm of Münster University, the Federal Republic of Germany was one of the leading countries in environmental biotechnology.

It was active in three sectors, sewage processing, soil reclamation and atmospheric depollution, and trying to harness micro-organisms in all three sectors.

He said: "To some extent, these organisms already exist, in others they have yet to be enriched by natural mutation, but for the most part genetic engineering techniques will need to be employed."

Genetic engineering as a new and revolutionary approach to biotechnology is felt by the chemical industry to be one of its brightest hopes and foremost opportunities.

Professor Helmut Simon of Munich University of Technology drew a striking comparison to illustrate the part it now plays:

"We can say that genetic engineering is not to be equated with biotechnology, but it promotes its possibilities and efficacy to an extraordinary degree.

"We can say that biotechnology without genetic engineering corresponds to biotechnology with genetic engineering as an old single-cylinder steam engine corresponds to a modern jet turbine."

Yet many people feel most uneasy about this "modern jet turbine," and this malaise has come to assume the proportions of a serious problem for the chemical industry.

Gone are the days when people believed in technology and were euphoric about growth prospects, when anything seemed possible and every promise was believed.

The industry both regrets and fails to understand why part of the German public has changed its mind.

Scant attention has yet been paid to the causes of this disillusionment but the industry would dearly like to eliminate its repercussions as soon as possible where they hurt.

When new developments cannot be converted into marketable products without delay, the industry argues, its international competitive status is at stake, and with it its very survival.

About 450 of the 3,000 or so exhibitors at Achema presented new ideas, developments and products in biotechnology. There were many new ideas in plant design and construction.

The importance of biotechnology was lent further emphasis by three platform debates designed to present trade fair visitors with an opportunity of briefing themselves and ascertaining industrial views on the subject.

The pharmaceutical industry in particular is banking on biotechnology complementing rather than competing with chemicals. It is hoping genetically-engineered drugs will give the industry a substantial boost in the years ahead.

Dr Ernst Truscheit, who is in charge of this sector at Bayer AG in Wuppertal, described the present position and the outlook for the future as follows:

"At present so-called first-generation products are being processed. They are human proteins, work on about 100 of which is under way around the world. Twenty or so have reached the clinical trial stage.

"World turnover in products of this kind is estimated at about $500m a year and, as we enter the 1990s, is expected to total $4.5bn by 1995. That is not an overoptimistic estimate."

A damper is placed on these great expectations mainly by poor domestic framework conditions, as manufacturers see it.

This has led more than once in the past to the pharmaceutical industry considering giving the Federal Republic of Germany a miss as a location for the manufacture of such drugs.

Only recently Professor Karl-Heinz Büchel of the Bayer board referred in this connection to a "Morgenthau Plan for biotechnology" and announced that his company would accordingly create new jobs to manufacture the blood-congealing agent VIII in the United States rather than in the Federal Republic of Germany.

What Dr Truscheit had to say on this topic in Frankfurt sounded a surprising note of moderation in comparison.

"In principle," he said, "the Federal Republic of Germany is an excellent industrial location for genetic engineering.

"We have outstandingly well-trained scientists, no less outstandingly well-trained technical staff.

"We have an excellent social climate, a superb working climate, a striking desire to perform on the part of the labour force and an outstanding infrastructure.

"What may now call the location into question to some extent is the framework conditions. At present the Federal Republic of Germany lacks clear regulations.

"What we have are guidelines and an abundance of legislative activity in this sector — and a low level of acceptance by the general public."

Against this background, he said, detailed attention had been paid to location and a decision been reached in favour of Berkeley, California, in this specific instance — largely to rule out the competitive advantage competitors stood to gain if Bayer were caught up in a protracted licensing process.

International competition runs along greyhound lines. First past the post is what counts, and the winner makes all (or nearly all) the profits.

That wasn't to say that Bayer planned to turn its back on the Federal Republic of Germany once and for all where genetic engineering was concerned.

"We are most determined," Dr Truscheit said, "to continue primary development of further products here in the Federal Republic of Germany, particularly in Wuppertal, and later to manufacture them there."

He reiterated his call on the Federal government to lay down clear framework conditions. Industry, he said, had hinted to the government that it could, if need be, even live with a Genetic Engineering Act — as long as it left sufficient leeway for new developments.

In the past the chemical industry has strongly opposed any such legislation by Bonn. It is now showing signs of readiness to compromise, arguing that *if* legislation was needed to improve acceptance of the new technology, then industry would be prepared to bite the bullet.

It might not be as unpalatable as has been feared. A Bill drawn up by the Ministry of Youth, Family and Women's Affairs and Health incorporates provisions that largely correspond to industrial ideas on the subject:

"Provisions must be designed to facilitate swift consideration for scientific advantages and new technological opportunities.

"So the authorities must be empowered to extend the scope of the provisions by decree to other techniques of changing genetic information while excluding other sectors in which science and technology feel risks can generally be ruled out."

Sceptics see this move as an attempt to formally fulfil the demand for a Genetic Engineering Act but to regulate the details by legal decree in such a way that science and industry find it easier to decide in favour of the Federal Republic of Germany as a research and manufacturing location.

Anna Spicher

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 June 1988)

■ NATURAL HISTORY

Not *if* birds of a feather flock together, but *when*

General-Anzeiger

Long before sunrise seagulls have been known to wait at garbage dumps for the first trucks to be emptied, while crows converge on school playgrounds minutes before the morning break for breadcrumbs from the children's snacks.

Are observations such as these sheer coincidence? Clearly not. They are the first signs that nature has equipped birds with a sense of space and time.

Karl von Fritsch was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1973 for showing that bees have a sense of space and time.

As he also showed that bees are capable of communicating experiences, they may be able to make a mental note of only one place and time.

So scientists feel that a swarm of bees may have a "collective memory."

Research scientists at the Max Planck Institute of Ethology, Seewiesen, and the Edward Greg Institute, Oxford, are jointly testing birds, the first vertebrate, to see whether they have an individual sense of space and time.

The Oxford scientists, headed by Dr John Krebs, son of Nobel laureate Sir Hans Krebs, are mainly checking their birds' short-term decisions, such as whether they leave a feeding place only when it is completely exhausted or earlier.

Dr Herbert Biebach and his Seewiesen colleagues are looking into diurnal influences on birds' behaviour, observed and analysed over longer periods.

Against the background of their respective research work the ornithologists carried out experiments with warblers, a species of insect-eating bird widespread in Central Europe.

Their aim was to find out whether the warbler can learn in time and space. Can it grasp the significance of varying feeding times in different places?

For the purposs of the experiment the Max Planck ethologists built the warbler a small home of its own with a central living room and four dining rooms adjoining the living room and connected to it by closable "doors."

In each dining room there were feeders operated by the bird itself using photoelectric cells.

Every movement the bird made was ob[illegible]frared photoelectric cells and supersonic waves.

In an initial week's training the bird learnt that food was only obtainable at the feeder for about 20 seconds, followed by a five-minute break that it had to spend in the living room.

Having learnt this initial lesson the warbler could then be put through its paces in the experiment proper.

The lights were switched on at 6 a.m. and breakfast was only "served" at one feeder even though all the other dining rooms were accessible.

From 9 a.m. food ceased to be available in this dining room and was served only in the next. Further meals were served in the third dining room from 12 noon to 3 p.m. and in the fourth from 3 to 6 p.m. Then came lights out.

The five-minute break the bird was taught in the preparatory week was intended to prevent it from simply waiting in a given dining room until such time as fodder materialised.

That would have proved nothing. The experiment would not have shown whether the warbler was capable of learning the difference. It would not, for that matter, have been in keeping with natural conditions.

"In freedom the bird has to head more or less straight for one or other corner of its territory to save energy," Dr Biebach says. "That also minimises the risk of being caught by natural enemies en route."

The enforced break had to be observed even when the bird flew into the wrong dining room — as a five-minute spell in the "sin-bin," as it were.

At the outset of the experiment the warbler's performance was no better than might have been expected. It got its timing and directions right only about one time in four.

But after five to 10 days all birds that were put through the test routine had achieved a success rating of about 80 per cent.

Subsequent checks showed that the warblers had truly understood the sequence and made a note of what to remember. There was no question of them having gone by trial and error.



Garden warbler plays guinea pig in Max Planck laboratory. (Photo: MPG)

Even when all feeders could be operated all the time the birds kept to the sequence they had memorised.

So the Seewiesen ornithologists have shown for the first time that a bird is capable of recognising space and time and memorising an appropriate feeding strategy.

What no-one knows is how birds tell the time. Does their behaviour run in a egg-timer sequence once the programme has been activated? Or does the warbler have an inner diurnal clock that tells them when to relocate?

The Seewiesen scientists are now experimenting with sequence variations to check this point. Can the warbler's sequence be triggered at any time or does it wait until its inner clock strikes 6 a.m.?

What they can already say for sure is that the warbler is not only well able to learn factors related to space and time but also has a limited grasp of what might be termed technology.

At the outset of the experiments the scientists were amazed to see that the birds had somehow sensed in the living room which feeder was next to be activated.

This phenomenon, which they were at first unable to explain, was due to the circuit relay buzzing. The bird heard the buzz and put two and two together.

So the scientists had no choice but to replace this mechanism by a noiseless one.

Ulrich Martin-Trautwein

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 18 June 1988)

What nightingale really meant in Berkeley Sq.

Songbirds do not just sing at random. They use their vocal ability to specific purpose.

They have congenital calls by which they signal their return to the young in the nest or warn birds of their own and other species of the approach of potential enemies.

But the song birds largely learn while young subtly regulates the way they get on with others of their species.

Professor Dietmar Todt and his associates at the Free University department of behavioural biology in Berlin have harnessed the latest registration and analysis techniques to probe the formal structures and biological functions of birdsong.

Dr Henrike Hultsch has concentrated on the nightingale with its international reputation for being one of the most talented songbirds.

The nightingale's vocabulary has been found to consist of over 200 patterns or verses, as against the great tit's repertoire of four verses.

[illegible] the Berlin ethologists are experimenting with the most varied and versatile songbirds and have discovered, in sophisticated trials, that talented songbirds' vocal responses are much more specific than those of, say, the great tit.

They thus reveal to the research scientist more about their internal condition and about social behaviour between them.

The abundance and complexity of behavioural sequences call for detailed protocols, often based on video footage, on visualisation of acoustic signals by means of, say, frequency spectrograms and by computer evaluation.

The different biological functions of birdsong can be identified, as the Berlin experiments have shown, in terms of structure and use.

Exciting sequences (and not just for the expert) include the vocal interaction of rival males. In spring, when they mark out their territory, "song contests" are held to decide who is in charge where, with females, nesting places and food resources at stake.

Direct attacks, with male blackbirds clawing at each other, are by no means uncommon at this stage of the season. Once territories have been staked out the male keeps his rivals at bay by singing.

A key role in these "song contests" is played by vocal counters typical of song interaction between many domestic songbird species.

The birds react in established patterns. As soon as A starts to sing, B will join in as a fellow-proprietor of territory and potential rival of A's.

B will select from his repertoire patterns or verses that are particularly similar to those sung by A. When such "equivalent responses" are more or less immediate, occurring within a second or so, they are felt to constitute a threat.

What happens is that B interrupts A's song, joining in the crucial end of the sequence. A is usually the loser. It is generally only a matter of time before he beats a retreat.

Once territories are clearly defined the responses of neighbouring males are usually less prompt. Ethologists refer to "vocal greetings."

The proprietor of one territory breaks into song and is "greeted" by a neighbour who also demonstrates his vocal (and physical) presence.

In temperate latitudes the females don't usually sing. They are better protected when they don't divulge their location by singing at the top of their voice.

Seasonal changes of climate, light and vegetation are sufficient to coordinate the mating instinct, so birdsong is not essential in this context.

In tropical climates with evergreen vegetation and limited seasonal changes in climate and light or dark it is another matter.

Many bird species there mate for life. That is a distinct advantage in occupying and defending territory, in synchronising mating behaviour and in ensuring the successful breeding of as many young as possible.

As Professor Todt and Dr Hultsch note in the journal of the Berlin Zoological Garden, stable pairing is linked with a special mode of communication known as the "mating duet."

In the duet the two birds' song sounds identical. The male and female rely on one of two strategies to ensure this harmony.

Rhythmically coordinated unity is achieved when the duet parts sung by the male and female differ in pitch and melody but are perfectly matched in timing, as it the case with East African warblers.

Alternatively, the parts are sung in such perfect succession that they make up a melodic unity, as in the case of the East African thrush.

In both cases the degree of precision shows how well used to each other the two birds are.

In territorial conflicts with other pairs these duets not only testify to the link between mates but also demonstrate

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■ HORIZONS

After 90 years, law on committal of old people to care is to be updated

About 250,000 people in Germany have been placed under the control of a guardian. Many are old people who cannot run their affairs any longer. Person in guardianship are in the same position as small children. They are not allowed to sign documents, live where they want, run their own financial affairs, drive a car or make a will. A slightly scaled down form of guardianship (Vormundschaft) is care (Pflegschaft), under which people do retain some rights. Court order is the only way people can be placed under either version. Often, guardians are unsympathetic. Often they are relatives more interested in financial advantage rather then welfare. The Bonn Justice Ministry is having a look at the whole system of Vormundschaft and Pflegschaft and has set up a committee to examine the legislation, which hasn't been changed for 90 years. Annelie Stankau wrote the story for the *Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger*.

Four judges and nine judicial administrators handle Vormundschaft and Pflegschaft cases in Cologne.

In 60 per cent of cases, people are given into the care of a relative. A person who is not related, a lawyer for instance, handles goods and property.

One lawyer recalls a case she dealt with: it involved a businessman of the old school, a man who would stand up and button up his jacket over his waistcoat when a woman came into the room. He was a man who laid great emphasis on appearance and behaviour.

He had spent his whole life doing his duty as he saw it — with his firm, his family and in the administration of his property.

He was now in a home. When she visited him, he wore only striped pajamas over his emaciated body.

He was a millionaire. He had had a stroke and had become confused and certainly incapable of making any protest. He was placed in guardianship and management of his own affairs was taken from him by his rapacious relatives, who did not even leave him with an alarm clock.

His fate is a common one. There are hundreds of similar cases. For instance the retired woman teacher.

She was 80. She had difficulties seeing and moving about. She signed over full powers of attorney to her niece for the management of her daily affairs.

A year later the old lady was found dead and half-decayed in her flat with the telephone receiver still in her hand.

No-one heard her cry for help after her fall — there was nothing else to get from her.

Her bank and savings accounts were empty. Her wardrobe and glass-fronted cupboard had been plundered, not a Meissner porcelain cup remained in the sideboard.

The niece, who had been given the power of attorney, later said: "They were all presents from my aunt."

This is a bitter tale. Weakness and dependence are sometimes exploited even by the family.

"The danger that a demand is made for guardianship to get hold of property is very real," said Herbert Hoss, director of the Cologne Rehabilitation Society, which takes care of the mentally-ill.

For this reason "relatives' privileges" in the reform of guardianship and care cases for adults, that should be approved during the life of this Bundestag, is of particular importance.

This priority of relations or relations by marriage to be appointed guardians of adults is coming under increasing criticism. But it is only one aspect mentioned in a 380-page discussion paper on reform of guardianship legislation.

The working committee, made up of judges, legal experts, administration officials and psychiatrists, has been commissioned by the Justice Minister to examine proposals for reform of the 90-year-old legislation. It sees "the spirit of the 19th century embodied in it."

In this legislation protection is not given primarily to the weak, but protection is given to the family property, according to patriarchal kinship structures. This has now lost a lot of its relevance for family property is no longer so vital for the survival of the family, "through the consolidation of social insurance."

According to reformers, practical experience with relatives acting as guardians has shown that "conflicts emerge on physical and psychological grounds."

To some, inheritance interests prevent them from acting unselfishly as guardians. On the other hand the priority given family members gives no consideration to friendly relationships which adults have made in the course of a lifetime and which they regard as being more important.

For this reason this part of the incapacitation legislation has become explosive, because, according to one lawyer observer in Cologne, "more and more people might be increasingly exploited."

One lawyer currently has 15 wards. In her experience: "If there is something to be got from a situation people are like hyenas."

It should not be so, but vigilance must be applied.

If a court official is ordered by the guardianship judge to find a guardian for a helpless, elderly person, and right at the top of his list there are "devoted relatives," he has to have "fine antennae" to see possible conflicts of interest.

Trude Unruh, a Greens member of the Bundestag and a founder of the Grey Panthers, an association for looking after the interests of elderly people, prefers "independent, socially mature people living close at hand" as suitable counsellors in many cases rather than relatives.

This would exclude the considerable danger that senile people are placed in a home under guardianship, "for the sake of simplicity," instead of all means possible being applied for their convalescence and return to an active life.

The Grey Panthers, who have put their stamp on the Justice Ministry reforms, draw attention to the possibilities of a "Care Testament," in which everyone can determine who should care for them in the case of psychiatric illness or other conditions in which they need help.

It is becoming increasingly urgent to have new regulations on guardianship to replace present legislation that originates from the time of Kaiser Wilhelm II. If only because of the wider distribution of affluence and with that the greater danger that in old age people can become the victims of "manipulation by interested third parties."

There is also the fact that the elderly make up an increasingly large proportion of the population as a whole.

Even now about 4,000 elderly people are declared incapacitated and put in guardianship every year.

This happens to many on medical grounds, for instance for schizophrenia, or severe brain damage. About 15 per cent are declared incapacitated because of alcoholism or dependence on tablets of one sort or another, and about ten per cent for drug-abuse.

Most cases, however, involve elderly, retired people who have become confused. In many instances the diagnosis is "cerebral sclerosis," so that men and women, "who have led irreproachable lives," can be put into guardianship, according to a Cologne guardianship judge, "a fate that could happen to anyone."

It is true that not so many people are put in guardianship as quickly as they were ten years ago, but "the threshold for that happening is still far too low," according to Herbert Hoss.

More often than not it is enough for a medical consultant (usually selected by the relatives" to put the guardianship machinery in motion.

The judicial examination of the person concerned takes place "in the presence of a medical specialist" in the home of the person concerned or in a hospital, according to a guardianship judge.

The pitifully confused person, whose sense of shock is augmented by the authoritative tones of officialdom, must then provide information "about his or her daily life, or about their hobbys."

Sometimes the people examining a person for guardianship test if the person can write and do basic arithmetic. One Cologne judge said: "We only ask about the four basics of arithmetic, adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing." He added, "this is very saddening. It is a tough thing for officials to have to do."

Anyone who is put into guardianship is in the same position as a seven-year-old child. He can no longer sign anything, no longer determine where he (or she) wants to live, he can no longer handle his own financial affairs, cannot drive a car, marry or make a will.

For some time guardianship judges have ordered care (Pflegschaft) rather than guardianship, so that a person's legal competence can be maintained to some extent.

In this case relations, lawyers, officials, social workers or associations of some kind assume responsibility for specific aspects of a person's life.

They can determine where the person will reside, resolve pension formalities and decide upon medical treatment.

Helpless people who have the misfortune to fall into the hands of overtaxed, overburdened or even indifferent guardians have a tough time.

Their guardians have no worries about objections being raised since the elderly people concerned do not have the powers or the perspective to defend themselves. Most accept their hopeless situation with despair and resignation.

For instance a wealthy woman in a home could not understand why the woman in the next bed got one hundred marks a month (she was on social assistance) while she was dependent on her family and could not even afford a new pair of stockings.

Controls and counter-controls, guardians who report for or against a case of guardianship, are useless against despicable human behaviour.

There was one lawyer who was pestered by the heirs because she had paid for a holiday for her ward accompanied by a student from her ward's money instead of "holding on to the cash for the family."

Then relatives took away a mink coat belonging to their charge because "the old lady will never come out of the mad house."

It is questionable whether cruelty of this kind in dealings between people can ever be totally avoided. But it is all the more likely the more dependent the helpless person is on other people.

For this reason reformers want to increase the protection they are given by means other than guardianship and a limitation of their rights.

The proposed legislation will, for instance, do away totally with guardianship. In place of guardianship and care involving adults they will be looked after by "a legal representative."

This change of regulations would have no automatic effect on legal competence. In individual cases it would be possible to include "a consent reservation" on a judge's orders.

A mentally disturbed businessman would then be able to buy a suit, contrary to the law as it stands at present. But if he wanted to involve himself in the affairs of his company, the guardian could prevent this with the assistance of the court.

Or someone would be charged to look after a person with psychiatric problems who could take care of his legal affairs.

But the incapacitated person would not have to ask permission from someone if he wanted to buy a television set or redecorate his flat.

It is not yet quite clear how the reforms, should they become law, would be applied in practice.

Many experts turn to the Austrian model of state "trustee associations," others prefer civil law arrangements.

Trude Unruh is certain that enough voluntary helpers could be found, prepared to stand by "two helpless people who live nearby."

One lawyer is sceptical, however. She said: "It just does not happen that they stand by someone and care for them. It is more often than not a matter of flagrant economic interests."

Annelie Stankau

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 25 June 1988)

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their solidarity to others. Professor Todt and Dr Hultsch proved this point by confronting thrushes in their Kenyan habitat with rival decoys.

Decoys arranged in pairs 30 to 60 cm apart were attacked much less often by rivals than birds perched three to six metres apart.

It was also clear that mating birds also mark out their territory both acoustically and visually. It is often enough for them jointly to appear at the border of their territory.

Marking out territory by birdsong takes time and energy. Songbirds that also use visual displays are more effective.

Blackbirds on TV aerials in our own urban environment make this particular most impressively.

Elke Brüser

(Der Tagesspiegel, Berlin, 17 June 1988)

■ SOCIETY

Small-time drug traffickers use asylum law to keep one sale ahead of police

Drugs flooding on to the streets of Germany; lorries being hijacked on Italian roads; the increasing sophistication of white-collar crime. In the stories on this page, three writers touch on these three aspects of crime. The drug problem is an international one that no one anywhere seems to be winning (or even drawing); items like bank cards with holograms (for example) are designed to hold the intellectual criminal at bay, but for how long? With the opening up of European markets, with lorry drivers from all parts of Europe driving all over other parts of Europe, hijacking is seen as an increasingly profitable way to make a quick buck (or lira). The lead story, which was written by Karl-Heinz Krumm for the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, reveals how the German narcotics investigators are gritting their teeth in frustration as suspects cleverly use Germany's liberal laws on political asylum to carry on their business.

More drugs are available now on the streets of Germany than ever before, says the head of the BKA (Bundeskriminalamt, equivalent to the FBI or the CID) drug squad, Jürgen Jeschke.

It didn't matter which drug. There was more heroin, more cocaine, more hashish and more chemical drugs.

It seems that the never-ending battle against trafficking has not got very far — even if there are the successes. The courier route from the Golden Triangle of Asia has been brought under control and the associated problem of the Sri Lankan Tamils filtering in through East Berlin has been almost solved.

Investigators see Black Africa now as the key. At the beginning of the 80s, the problem consisted mainly of Ghanaians and Gambians bringing in home-grown marihuana. Now they had gone up market and were bringing in heroin.

There is evidence connecting India and Indians living in Africa, of whom there are many. Eighty per cent of the captured heroin in Germany is of Asian origin although it is brought in from Africa.

Over the past three or four years, there has been a changing pattern of Senegalese drug trafficking through Frankfurt. At first it began with a trickle of individual Senegalese bringing in small amounts of heroin. Now they come in groups.

Police do not know a great deal about the system they have developed, but what they do know is illuminating. Most of the arrested Senegalese (last year 267) come from three villages. Investigators deduce that no single Mr Big is responsible but that the message is getting around by word of mouth that good money can be picked up in Frankfurt without any great risk.

The Senegalese are well informed about their legal rights. They know that they are not required to make a statement when they are apprehended; they also know that for transporting very small amounts of heroin, the punishment is not great.

Most of those who are arrested are discovered with just one or two small packets each containing between 0.2 and 0.8 grammes of heroin.

This modest amount plus their awareness of rights to some extent offsets natural disadvantages in the business of trafficking such as physical appearance and usually bad German, which makes them under certain circumstances automatically suspect.

They know they will not be punished heavily for carrying such small amounts; they sub-contract out to suppliers, often Ghanaians and Gambians who, if they are arrested, stand to lose only the miniscule amount of the drug that they carry.

And there is scarcely a risk that one will spill the beans. As one investigator asked: what can we offer in return for the suspect naming names?

A difficult situation for the police. So should the laws be changed? Two senior investigators, Klaus Krumb and Norbert Ditt, agree that apart from incipient irritations, they had no complaints with the law. In more than 80 per cent of cases where evidence is discovered, they are able to make arrests, even in the case of the Senegalese.

Frankfurt public prosecutor Christoph Schaefer and narcotics authority head Job Tillmann confirm this. They say that arrested dealers from Senegal are charged, tried and sentenced within a few weeks of arrest.

First offenders caught with small amounts of heroin usually get a four months suspended sentence. Schaefer says that the Senegalese cannot, after all, be treated differently from other dealers.

After a sentence, an offender would normally be deported. But in this case, the Senegalese apply for political asylum. And the police are helpless.

It means that deportation is only possible after the application has been legally processed — and that takes time.

Yet no Senegalese have been granted asylum because the courts have never found any evidence of persecution in Senegal (the same applies to many other African countries).

Because of the numbers of Africans who are caught coming to Germany in various guises, as businessmen or tourists, with varying amounts of drugs ranging from small amounts up to, for example as much as 80 grammes carried in the gut, visa regulations were changed last year.

Now, visitors from all African countries except Benin must first obtain a visa. But it is a move that has not been particularly effective. Frankfurt police say that asylum applications used to be made only after a suspect was arrested.

Ditt says that of 50 arrested Senegalese since the regulation was brought in, 49 had already applied for asylum. They get no visa in Senegal, but they come anyway and, when they are prevented from entering Germany, apply for asylum.

Jeschke says that last year there were a total of exactly 57,973 asylum applicants. Of these, 6.2 per cent were from Black Africa — and half of these were under investigation on suspicion of dealing with drugs.

Gambians comprised 60 per cent of those under investigation and Senegalese 29 per cent (Gambia and Senegal are neighbouring countries).

Asylum is a controversial business. Most applicants are kept in homes or camps where they receive board and lodging and clothing plus 80 marks a month pocket money. Asylum law makes it an offence punishable by up to a year in jail to leave without permission the area where they are assigned.

But narcotics investigators regard even this tough law as at best a blunt weapon.

It is a common practice for Senegalese dealers to travel from their camps in all parts of Germany to Frankfurt, even though many have already been sentenced for doing so before. Police and justice officials are naturally irritated. Schaefer admits there is little more they can do.

The central point of thinking now is, inevitably, watching for misuse of asylum law. Experts say that cases which clearly have no hope of succeeding could be cleared more quickly.

Schaefer rejects the idea that Senegalese should be allocated to camps with better security to prevent their trafficking trips to Frankfurt. "We can't build heavily guarded internment camps."

But all drugs experts say that this, indeed, is the solution.

Karl-Heinz Krumm

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 25 June 1988)

Cappuccino

Two badly injured policemen, a bound-and-gagged German lorry driver and a missing truck containing 420,000 marks worth of coffee — another truck hijacking in Italy.

There are about 4,000 hijacks a year on Italian roads and losses are so great (4.2 billion marks last year) that at least one big insurance company is refusing cover on certain stretches.

[illegible] Wolf Liebig, 31, employed by a Hamburg haulier, was driving along the motorway from Turin in the direction of Piacenza in northern Italy when he was signalled to stop by a police car.

He got out but before he could produce his papers, there was a pistol levelled at his stomach. Three men in police uniform bound and gagged him and took him with them in the car. A fourth man in plain clothes drove the lorry off with the coffee.

Shortly afterwards, some real policemen stopped the car containing the bogus policemen, who had by now got rid of their uniforms, and there was an exchange of fire. Two of the real policemen were badly wounded and the bandits disappeared, leaving behind Liebig who, forgotten in the chaos, had managed to wriggle free.

One investigating policeman said that police uniforms were so often used by motorway hijackers that many drivers no longer stopped when signalled to by police.

The Turin newspaper, *La Stampa*, said that ambushing trucks has become an industry; 42 per cent of cases occurred on Italian toll motorways and others on by-pass roads and expressways.

The "motorway Indians" as they are known in Italy, specialise in expensive cargos.

Many Italian firms take steps to protect themselves. Some allow their trucks to travel only in convoys. Some use private police escorts.

Insurance poses big problems. One of the biggest Italian insurance firms



rejects all cover for loads being transported in areas between Naples and Sicily. This is where the greatest number of robberies occur. The mafia is blamed.

Christa Langen-Peduto

(Mannheimer Morgen, 10 June 1988)

Cleverer ...

German business is being increasingly threatened by organised crime. White-collar criminals are becoming more unscrupulous, more brutal and also more professional.

The president of the BKA, the federal agency equivalent to the FBI or the CID, Heinrich Boge, told a seminar of businessmen in Frankfurt that there were 4.4 million offences last year, a record in Germany.

But there was little public reaction. Instead, people were getting used to it.

Crime was especially prevalent in areas of industrial concentration where professionals "with excellent international business connections" operated sometimes from other countries.

They knew their way round the laws and covered up cleverly. And there was more brutrality too in politically motivated crime and economic espionage.

He said: "Organised crime has for a long time had its foot in almost all areas of crime, especially where planning promises big dividends. A dangerous trend is the growing influence over the use of existing legal, mostly commercial organisational structures; and also the exercise of influence over economic and entrepreneurial decisions by the use of money from crime."

There were no trustworthy figures on the extent of earnings from this sort of crime, but he reckoned that increasing professionalism indicated that earnings would be sharply increasing.

It was difficult for the police to find victims or witnesses because they were systematically and subtly intimidated. Breaking through this wall of silence was difficult.

Police had developed both national and international methods to meet this sort of crime head on. These included special units for secret investigation.

Herr Boge turned to terrorism. He said that the fact that the Red Army Faction had not struck for some time



should not lull people into a false sense of security. German business remained a target for terrorists.

The RAF was not discouraged; nor was it weakened in its resolve; nor was it unsure of itself. It was merely waiting for a chance to strike.

Peter Born

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 24 June 1988)